

'Semi-Presecial' Annual English Language Course Overview

The 'semi-presencial' courses are blended learning and have a duration of 100 hours in total, divided between traditional face-to-face classes and autonomous study by the student outside the classroom. The autonomous study component has two elements – a virtual learning platform (online activities) and homework (book-based activities). The distribution of these components is as follows:

- Face-to-face classes
40 hours = 26 x 90' classes, **once weekly** (1.5 hours per week)
- Autonomous learning
 - Online = 45 hours (approximately 1.5 hours per week)
 - Homework = 15 hours (approximately 0.5 hours per week)

This means a commitment by the learner to spend a minimum of **3.5 hours per week**, including classes, to follow the course for its duration. The minimum requirement of the course is to attend 80% of classes and complete 80% of the online activities.

Things to take into consideration

- A significant part of the course is **autonomous learning**, which requires a commitment for its duration. Not only is it essential to attend class regularly but also to maintain a similar rhythm with the online activities and homework. Not everyone is naturally independent as a learner and it is easy to underestimate the workload. To be successful you will need to be realistic about the time you have available to spend on the course and plan accordingly.
- **Your speaking will be monitored by the teacher in class from the first day and throughout the course. Your performance in speaking activities in class and on the platform will form the basis of this evaluation.**

Factors that will influence your mark for speaking are:

- Regular attendance.
 - Regular and full participation in speaking activities.
 - Using English rather than your own language in class.
 - Your ability to communicate in English through fluency and the correct use of structures, vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Your spoken English will be assessed in relation to your level, using the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference).
- Written **exams** will be held during the course and they will consist of listening, grammar and vocabulary exercises.
 - **Attendance.** Apart from the administrative demands of the course, it is generally accepted that regular engagement with and use of the language is the only way to improve.
 - In order to follow the online component of the course, you will need a computer with up-to-date basic software, audio and a microphone.
 - **The course is evaluated and, at the end, you will be given a mark and a grade. If you pass the course, you will be awarded a certificate by the USC.** If a learner achieves the minimum requirement of 80% classroom attendance and has completed 80% of the online component, the final mark will be the average of two marks – speaking and exams.