



Semi-Intensive English Language Course Overview (from September to December and/or from February to May)

The semi-intensive 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
90' classes, **twice weekly** (3 hours per week)
- Autonomous learning
 - Online = 45 hours (approximately 3 hours per week)
 - Homework = 15 hours (approximately 1 hour per week)

This means a commitment by the learner to spend a minimum of 7 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 satisfactorily 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 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.
- **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. The marking scheme is designed to encourage this, whilst accepting that you have other commitments. If you think there might be a problem in achieving an acceptable level of attendance or completing the required autonomous work, discuss the situation with your teacher as soon as possible.
- 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.