

# ASSERT Course

## Academic Skills for Successful Exchange Research sTudents

Spring 2016

*Updated on Feb 12, 2016*

### General Course Information:

Academic Skills for Successful Exchange Research sTudents (ASSERT) Course aims to prepare students for their overseas research participation through the acquisition of academic skills and mindset comparable to students of professional educational institutions of other countries. These skills will include, but not be limited to the following: critical thinking, analytical, presentation, and academic writing skills, academic information literacy, and statistical literacy. Weekly opportunities for listening, speaking, writing, and presentation practice in English will be provided. A secondary focus of increasing students' knowledge concerning Japan to enable them to have conversations about their own country while overseas will also be covered.

### Course Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

#### Academic skills

1. (Critical thinking skills)
  - Demonstrate critical thinking skills whose level is similar to that of average western medical school graduates
2. (Analytical skills)
  - Quickly identify core ideas and logically summarize points
3. (Presentation skills)
  - Prepare and deliver effective oral and slide presentation
4. (Academic writing skills)
  - Write essays using logical framework
5. (Academic information literacy)
  - Effectively and efficiently search relevant articles from literature databases
  - Describe academic paper structure and learn how to efficiently read

#### Knowledge base

1. (Knowledge of Japan)
  - Describe Japanese societal structure, history, politics, economy, culture, religion, health status and health care system, religion
2. (Knowledge of research themes)
  - Describe background, known and unknown facts, significance of, and approaches to his/her research theme(s)

## Academic mindset

### 1. (Assertiveness and extraversion)

- Be assertive, and actively participate in and contribute to discussion
- Ask constructive questions to presenters to advance existing knowledge about presented contents

## **Course Instructors:**

Kazuki Takada	03-5803-4964	<a href="mailto:takada.rheu@tmd.ac.jp">takada.rheu@tmd.ac.jp</a>
Janelle Moross	03-5803-4686	<a href="mailto:jmoross.isc@tmd.ac.jp">jmoross.isc@tmd.ac.jp</a>
Rebecca Carlson	03-5803-4686	<a href="mailto:carlson.isc@tmd.ac.jp">carlson.isc@tmd.ac.jp</a>

## **Course Requirements:**

Students taking this course will be expected to attend all classes, cover all required reading, and participate in class discussion.

All written work should conform to the following criteria:

- Single-sided, numbered pages, 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced
- Include your name, student number, and a title for all assignments
- Employ footnotes and include a bibliography whose style should conform to the stylistic guidelines of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, available on the following website: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

## **Course Activities:**

1. Critical thinking bootcamp  
This is a two-day workshop, which includes an introduction to critical thinking, followed by practical applications where students can put their new knowledge into use.
2. Rediscovering Japan  
Each student must make a short PechaKucha style presentation concerning a topic they have signed up for. This activity's goal is to make students more aware of their own country's history and culture, and allow them time to practice discussing and describing such in English.
3. Literature search exercise  
Students will perform literature research outside of class on an assigned topic, present what they have found to other members of their group and discuss the merits/ demerits of what they each found.
4. Research topic presentation  
Each student must prepare a five-minute slide presentation pertaining to his or her proposed area of research and present once during the course.

**Materials:**

All course materials will be available on the course page of e-SALON.

**Schedule:**

All sessions will be held in M&D Tower 8F South "G-Lab", unless otherwise directed.

Workshop	Mar. 25/26, 2016	09:00-17:00
Session 1	Apr. 11, 2016	17:30-19:00
Session 2	Apr. 18, 2016	17:30-19:00
Session 3	Apr. 25, 2016	17:30-19:00
Session 4	May 09, 2016	17:30-19:00
Session 5	May 16, 2016	17:30-19:00
Session 6	May 23, 2016	17:30-19:00
Session 7	May 30, 2016	17:30-19:00