

ASSERT Course

Academic Skills for Successful Exchange Research sTudents

Spring 2018

Updated on Feb 8, 2018

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)
 - How to organize essays using logical framework
5. (Academic information literacy)
 - Effectively and efficiently search relevant articles from literature databases
 - Learn academic paper structure and how to efficiently scan for information

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	03-5803-4684	takada.rheu@tmd.ac.jp
Janelle Moross	03-5803-4686	jmoross.isc@tmd.ac.jp
Rebecca Carlson	03-5803-4686	carlson.isc@tmd.ac.jp

Course Requirements:

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

Any 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

Course Activities:

1. Critical thinking bootcamp
This is a one-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
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 these topics 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 their selection.
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. 16 (F)	09:00-17:00
Session 1	Apr. 09 (M)	17:30-19:00
Session 2	Apr. 16 (M)	17:30-19:00
Session 3	Apr. 23 (M)	17:30-19:00
Session 4	May 07 (M)	17:30-19:00
Session 5	May 14 (M)	17:30-19:00
Session 6	May 21 (M)	17:30-19:00