**COURSE OUTLINE**

This course aims at language mastery through the development of study and learning skills in the following areas:

**READING SKILLS**

* Sensitise students into the reading comprehension techniques (such as scanning, skimming, predicting or anticipating)
* Learn how to analyse and infer meaning
* Recognise text type (style, lexis, levels of formality, register) [e.g. news reports, e-mails, stories, interviews, songs, films, diaries, (auto)biographies]
* Understand text organization (reference, paragraphs hooks, repetition, connectors, parallel structure)

**VOCABULARY ACQUISITION**

* Raise awareness on word relations and the building up of one’s vocabulary
* Use a thesaurus and/or an (online) dictionary
* Deal with unknown words (prefixes, suffixes); deducing meaning from context
* Collocation use
* Use strategies for recording and recalling vocabulary

**WRITING SKILLS**

* Develop ideas (define and classify) to catch and maintain the reader’s interest
* Enhance ability to write with clarity, control and sophistication (mainly describing objects, people, places and narrating events, real or imagined)
* Thesis statement and topic sentences
* Paragraph writing – introduction, main body, conclusion
* Edit for gender bias, opinion bias, repetition, spelling, syntactic errors, etc.

**GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX**

Focus on areas which cause difficulty even among the most advanced learners, such as:

* tense and aspect, modality, word order, adverb placement, articles and prepositions
* linking devices, infinitives, gerunds and participles
* phrases, clauses and sentence structure

**REFERENCE SKILLS**

* Use primary sources (Library, Self-Access Centre) wisely and selectively (books, articles, DVDs, newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, the Internet, etc.)
* Use Dictionaries and Grammar Books

**SPEAKING SKILLS**

* Speak with accuracy (with regard to structure and choice of lexis)
* Present information to an audience in an interesting and natural way (without much reliance on notes)
* Improve fluency, perfect pronunciation (pay attention to word stress, rhythm and intonation)