

MEET OUR TEACHER

Beth Derbyshire-Sloan

B. Ed (Secondary) majors English, Drama & History
M. Commerce
CELTA



The learning is **student-centred** – which means that the teachers coach but not lecture – we try to ensure that students do most of the talking. There is loads of time for students to practice speaking with their classmates in breakout rooms to improve conversation and presentation skills.

WHAT ARE THE TOP STUDY TIPS YOU WOULD GIVE A STUDENT WHEN STUDYING ACADEMIC ENGLISH?

- Read a little in English every day (newspapers are a great source)
- Listen to a little English every day (you will develop an ear for it with exposure)
- Keep your speaking up!
- And, boring I know, revise regularly (!!!)

DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS TO 'GUARANTEE' IMPROVEMENT?

Keep up with the class work – the lessons all build on each other so attending regularly, doing the homework and being a willing participant will almost guarantee a pass!

WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF TEACHING ACADEMIC ENGLISH TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

The students themselves. There's a huge array of different personalities that come together, all with different learning styles and who all respond to me in very different ways.

On a professional level, teaching online has meant that I have had to really "bring it" to every classroom to capture and engage the students – so in that respect I have really expanded my pedagogical tool kit.

WHAT ARE THE TOP THINGS YOU WOULD SHARE WITH STUDENTS ABOUT ACADEMIC ENGLISH?

While the course is rigorous it is **scaffolded** so that students learn in stages, building each day on previous knowledge.

Despite the online forum there is lots of **collaboration** using state of the art technology to bring students in different countries and time zones together. Many help each other.

There is lots of **one-to-one** time with the teachers to help students work through presentations, research, report writing and essays.

The teachers are **highly qualified and specialists** in what they do – most are degree educated with additional teaching qualifications relevant to international students.

Getting to know the learning needs and styles of each student is our first priority with a new class. That way activities and coaching can be adapted for maximum impact.

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MEET OUR TEACHER

Suleeka Goomane



WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF TEACHING ACADEMIC ENGLISH TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching academic English is seeing how far students have progressed from their initial writing task to the final exam and assessment results at the end of the term. Although an intensive course, I believe the program is well balanced and showcases the study expectations required at higher education. I also enjoy the glorious 'Aha' moments where a student will finally grasp a difficult concept or grammar point.

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WHAT ARE THE TOP THINGS YOU WOULD SHARE WITH STUDENTS ABOUT ACADEMIC ENGLISH?

The academic English program is designed to teach students to speak, read, listen, and write efficiently for academic achievement. For many teachers, myself included, it becomes alarmingly clear from the onset that many students have very little research, note taking, and critical thinking skills. The program allows for various opportunities where interactive speaking and debating skills are explored as well as how to research effectively and use referencing guides. As we progress rapidly into the blended delivery of teaching, students will also make use of online learning platforms which encourages more autonomous and accountable learning.

WHAT ARE THE TOP STUDY TIPS YOU WOULD GIVE A STUDENT WHEN STUDYING ACADEMIC ENGLISH?

The first piece of advice I always give students is to get reading or watching the news as regularly as possible if they do not already do so. Being familiar with current affairs and staying updated on hot topic issues is crucial for academic success. There are many opportunities for in-class debates or discussion on various topics, thus having an opinion on important issues is imperative for academic success. Besides this, Navitas encourages the principle of "Safe Space", as I do so in my lessons, fostering an inclusive and comfortable environment in which curiosities can be explored respectfully is something I hold firm; there are never any stupid questions and being confident to express or speak up is always encouraged!

WHAT ASPECTS OF THE NAVITAS PEDAGOGY SET US ASIDE FROM OUR COMPETITORS?

Academic English at Navitas strives to create dynamic student focused experiences to develop academic skills such as collaboration, critical thinking and so on. The program provides a safe and comfortable space for discovery and growth. Finally, the teachers are well supported to deliver effective lessons that benefit students in their tertiary study.

The program is well balanced and showcases the study expectations required at higher education. I enjoy the glorious 'Aha' moments where a student will finally grasp a difficult concept or grammar point.

MEET OUR TEACHER

Gavin Brown

**BA (Honours) Asian Studies/Languages
Teaching With Navitas English since 2012**



WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF TEACHING ACADEMIC ENGLISH TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

For English teachers there is no greater satisfaction than seeing a student's improvement throughout the course and sharing in their joy at achieving the scores they require for further study at the tertiary level in postgraduate, undergraduate and diploma courses.

On a personal level it is also a wonderful experience developing a relationship with students from a wide variety of different cultures and language backgrounds.

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WHAT ARE THE TOP THINGS YOU WOULD SHARE WITH STUDENTS ABOUT ACADEMIC ENGLISH?

Academic English teaches students the formal writing skills essential for success at university level.

The programs provides students with strong critical thinking and research skills.

Through the speaking units and assessments students learn formal presentation and debating skills that are required at university and in the workplace. Students learn about appropriate grammar with a focus on realistic academic writing genres.

The academic English course utilises an online learning platform (Moodle) that integrates face to face and online learning while also providing plenty of materials for independent learning.

WHAT ARE THE TOP STUDY TIPS YOU WOULD GIVE A STUDENT WHEN STUDYING ACADEMIC ENGLISH?

Never be afraid to use the English you have. Mistakes are expected and it is how we all learn new languages. Participate in class and never be afraid to ask questions. Read and listen to English at every opportunity even outside of what is required for your course.

WHAT ASPECTS OF THE NAVITAS PEDAGOGY SET US ASIDE FROM OUR COMPETITORS?

Academic English is a student-focused course where students are provided with the framework to discover and learn for themselves. Navitas has a long history of teaching Academic English and has a curriculum that has been carefully designed and regularly updated by highly skilled educators and researchers.

If you are willing to work hard, attend class and complete all of the assessment, the teachers at Navitas will do all they can to assist you in achieving your aims.

MEET OUR TEACHER

Hayley Crawford

Master of Applied Linguistics
Teaching With Navitas English since 2012



WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF TEACHING ACADEMIC ENGLISH TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

One of the best things about teaching international students is the chance to meet people from all over the globe. I love working with a group of people who are diverse yet heading towards the same goal of learning a language and advancing academically.

WHAT ARE THE TOP THINGS YOU WOULD SHARE WITH STUDENTS ABOUT ACADEMIC ENGLISH?

AE really teaches you how to be a student in a Western context. In an AE class, you're not only learning English to improve your communication skills, you're also learning about the academic culture – the attitudes, values and ways of doing things that are common at Australian universities. Learning academic culture and language together will really improve your chances of being successful in your tertiary studies, whether in formal presentations, group work and discussions or better academic writing.

WHAT ARE THE TOP STUDY TIPS YOU WOULD GIVE A STUDENT WHEN STUDYING ACADEMIC ENGLISH?

Attendance is key. Just turning up every day and making the most of the opportunity you have is important. That way, teachers will be able to help you, monitor your progress more closely and guide you in your language learning. Also, just try your best and don't let the fear of failing something or making mistakes stop you! Everybody makes mistakes; it's all part of the learning process.

WHAT ASPECTS OF THE NAVITAS PEDAGOGY SET US ASIDE FROM OUR COMPETITORS?

Our courses are really interactive. Some students may be concerned that studying online could be less exciting and that they will miss interacting with other students but the teachers really use their knowledge of online technology to make much of the class fun and interactive. We also have group work and group assignments as part of the curriculum, which helps you learn even more and also truly prepares you for realistic tertiary study. At college and university, you'll be expected to interact with your classmates and work together, so studying AE is good practice for that.

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