

**Minimum Requirements for Courses of Study in
Universities**

Curriculum
Foundation Programme

Foundation Programme

Foundation Programmes are widely accepted by a large number of Uganda's universities. In order to assist prospective students who do not have 'A' level (or did not reach the requisite grades at 'A' level, note that **this option is not open to Ugandans**), a Mature-Age Examination Entry Certificate, the IB qualification, or expatriate students from neighbouring countries who did not achieve a C⁺⁺ in the school-leaving examination in their home country, the foundation programme will bridge the gap between school and university.

This innovative programme is carefully formulated between the support skills needed for academic life and academic subjects needed to sustain university studies. The mix of courses offered on the programme will set prospective students on a path to achieving their goals of obtaining a university education.

This programme is offered as a full-time, one-year intensive programme.

The Foundation Programme

Core Courses

UFP 101 Orientation Course	15 CH 1 CU
UFP 102 English Language for University Studies	45 CH 3 CU
UFP 103 Foundational Mathematics	45 CH 3 CU
UFP 104 IT Skills for Academic Study	60 CH 4 CU
UFP 201 Effective Writing and Communication Skills	45 CH 3 CU
UFP 202 Study Skills for Academic Life	45 CH 3 CU
UFP 203 Understanding the World Today	60 CH 4 CU

Depending on the university programme selected, students take **one** introductory course in their chosen area of study 45 CH 3 CU

In order to qualify for the award of the University Foundation Programme Certificate, students need to obtain 25 credit units.

The Foundation Programme Course Descriptions

UFP 101

Orientation Course

15 CH 1 CU

This orientation course is a general introduction not only to university life but also to Uganda for international students. The course will include discussions and guest lectures on life skills, social behaviour, sexuality, culture and difference, and finance management.

Introduction

The Campus and its Resources

Opportunities to Grow

Making Friends

Culture and Difference

Maintaining Health and Well-Being

Health, Well-being, and Success in University

Managing Stress

Avoiding Harmful Substances

Emotions

Interpersonal Skills

Sexuality

Managing Resources

Managing Finances

Managing Time

UFP 102

English Language for University Studies 45 CH 3 CU

Course Description

This course on English for University Studies aims to assist international students, especially those from non-English-speaking countries, to develop a level of competence in the language so that they can read, speak, and write English to a standard acceptable for university studies. This course is also offered as a refresher course to students who have completed secondary school examinations in English. The course focuses on developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. At the end of the course, students will take an English language examination (IELTS or TOEFL) to evaluate their proficiency.

Course Objectives

On completion of this course, students will:

- gain the confidence necessary to express themselves in English without errors
- have a solid grasp of English grammar
- write clearly while avoiding slang and common spelling errors
- be able to listen and take accurate notes in English
- be able to speak unambiguous English that is not simply a translation from their mother tongue
- be able to read and understand complex academic materials that will assist further academic study

Course Outline

names of parts of speech and grammar:

- nouns (name of person, place, thing, or abstraction)
- adjectives (describes the noun)
- pronouns (he, she, we you, which ...)
- verbs (denoting an action) split infinitives and splitting verbs
- adverbs (quality of verb / how action is done)
- clauses (part of sentence containing subject and verb)
- sub-clauses (clause within a clause and separated by commas)
- conjunctions
- prepositions

Plurals and possessives

Introduction to tenses:

- Simple Present:** for frequent actions
- Present Continuous:** for present actions
- Simple Past:** when time/date is mentioned
- Present Perfect:** when no time is mentioned
- Simple Past:** for repeated actions in the past
- Present Perfect:** for past action that is continuing

Syntax and building sentences

Capital letters

Punctuation

Commas semicolons colon full stops question marks ...

Sentence construction and sub-clauses

Hyphenated adjectives

Slang and contractions

Common errors

Vocabulary

a wide range of vocabulary will be developed through class discussions: entertainment, social issues, politics, environment, globalization, culture and customs, technology, relationships ...

Style in written English

Idioms

metaphors

Pronunciation techniques

Teaching Methodology

In this course, students will learn through doing. Engaging in pairs and small group discussions with final presentations will give students the opportunities to practice new skills in language and gain the confidence to present topics in English to the class.

Course Assessment

Throughout this course, students will practice listening, reading, and writing skills. The coursework will account for 100% of the course marks and the English language examination must be passed.

UFP 103

Foundational Mathematics

45 CH 3 CU

Course Description

This course on Foundational Mathematics is designed to bring students to a level of mathematical literacy that will assist in university studies. The course is divided into four main topics: using and applying mathematics, number and algebra, shape, space, and measurements, and handling data.

Course Objectives

The course will help students develop the following skills:

Problem solving skills through investigating a variety of problems to improve students' ability to think for themselves and organise their work

Communication skills: students will be given opportunities to show that they can read mathematics and write about their work in a variety of ways using graphs, symbols, and diagrams, listen to and understand instructions, and explain their ideas clearly to others.

In addition, the course will develop students' ability to carry out calculations on paper or using a calculator.

Course Outline

The mathematics course is based on a modular approach. Lectures are designed to encourage students to investigate and discuss mathematics imaginatively. The course is divided into four parts:

Using and applying mathematics

using mathematics for practical tasks and applications to real-life problems, investigations in mathematics, solving problems, mathematical reasoning

Number and algebra

introduction to algebra; symbols and graphs; coordinates; fractions, decimals, ratio, percentages, angles and polygons, calculations, estimations, equations, and formulae

Shape, space, and measurements

Symmetry, perimeter, area, volume and angles, position, linear functions

Handling data

The use of probability and the collection, processing, representation, and interpretation of data, the how and the why of statistics

Teaching Methodology

Classes will involve lectures, demonstrations, class discussions, group work, computer or practical activities, as well as opportunities for students to consolidate concepts and skills through exercises and problem solving.

Course Assessment

The continuous assessment exercise for this course will account for 40% of the final course mark. The final examination will account for 60% of the final course mark.

Course Description

This introductory course on IT Skills for Academic Study is divided into four main parts: the computer, computer terminology, controlling and using the computer, using the internet.

Course Objectives

This course is intended to develop students' practical skills in information technology so that they are equipped to use technology to assist the learning processes in academic study. The internet component of the course will enable students to use on-line resources diligently and efficiently for research purposes.

Course Outline**The Computer**

History of the Computer

The main parts of the Computer

Uses of the Computer

Computer terminology

The Desktop

Icons, Shortcuts, Folders, and Files

Recycle Bin, My Computer and Networking

Applications and Programs

Windows and Operating Systems

Local Drives and Network Drives

Controlling and Using the Computer

Using Windows / an Open Source operating system and the Desktop

Using the Mouse

Opening and Closing Items on the Desktop

Single Click vs Double Click

Moving Items on the Desktop

Moving Icons on the Desktop

Using the Maximize, Restore, & Minimize Buttons

Using the Taskbar

Controlling the Taskbar

Starting Programmes on the Computers

Computer Programmes/Applications

Kinds of programmes

Word Processing applications

Opening and Closing Word Processing Applications

Running and Moving Between Multiple Programmes

Using the Taskbar to Move

Using the Minimize Button

Using the Maximize Button

Running Other Programmes at the Same Time

Entering Basic Information in Word Processing Applications

Basic Copying and Pasting Information Between Programmes

Copying Information

Pasting the Information

Saving Information Correctly

The Saving Process

Files and a Folders

Creating and Naming Folders

Saving Files with a "Good" Name

Saving Files in the Right Location

Using Other Programmes

Starting a Presentation Application

Creating and Running a Basic Slide

Using Design Templates

Text Input

Slide Show Effects

Animations

Introduction to Spreadsheets

Using Spreadsheets

The functions of a spreadsheet

Using the Intranet and the Internet

Opening the Intranet page

Navigating through the Intranet page

Creating and Sending an e-mail

Opening an e-mail

Basics of Connecting to the Internet

Introduction to Browsers

Hyperlinking

Web Navigation

Search Engines

Locating information

Understanding URLs

How to find relevant information

Using Google Scholar

Ethical Considerations

Teaching Methodology

This course will be conducted both in the classroom and in the computer lab. Students will be continually assessed so that progress through the course is steady and they master the various parts of the course before embarking on new topics.

Course Assessment

The course will be assessed continuously through practical exercises in the computer lab. A written test at the end of the course will account for 30% of the final course mark. A practical examination at the end of the course will account for 70% of the final course mark.

UFP 201 Effective Writing and Communication Skills 45 CH 3 CU

Course Description

This foundational course teaches the basics of good writing and communication skills. Students learn how to write grammatically-correct reports and focus on the interactive processes of transmitting and/or exchanging messages, information and/or understanding within individuals, groups, and organizations. The course examines the factors and circumstances that influence the flow and impact of messages, information, and understanding among individuals, groups and organizations.

Course Objective

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

understand the necessity for accurate and effective written and verbal communication

understand the basic concepts, principles, techniques, and proficiency required for academic study

Course Outline

Introduction to Communication Skills

The Concept of Communication

Introduction to Communication Theory

The Communication Process

Elements/Aspects of communication

Forms/Classification of Communication

Importance of Good Communication

Communication Media

Introduction to Communication Media

Oral Communication

Written Communication

Visual Communication

Audio – Visual Communication

Technological Developments and Communication media

Barriers to Communication

Medium barriers

Physical Barriers

Comprehension barriers

Socio–Psychological Barriers

How to Overcome Barriers

Principles of Communication

Clarity

Consideration

Correctness

Courtesy

Conciseness

Completeness

Interpersonal communication

Inter-cultural communication

Written Communication

The Functions of Written Communication

The Theory and Practice of Effective Writing Skills

Key Business Writing Skills

Written Communication

Forms of Written Communication

Letters

e-Mails

Texting

Reports and Presentations

Circulars and Notices

Oral, Visual, and Audio-Visual Means Of Communication

Oral Communication

Understanding Body Language

Telephone communication

Committees, Meetings, and Conferences

Audio–Visual Communication

Class Presentations

Speeches

Effective Oral Communication

Teaching Methodology

Lectures, practical work, tutorials, group discussions, class presentations, and team work.

Course Assessment

The course will be assessed by practical exercises in class (60%) and a final written examination (40%).

Course Description

When students enter university, they need the self-knowledge and academic skills to meet the challenges of university life and work. This course helps students develop effective strategies and practical skills needed in academic performance. The course also shows students how to create and use study systems, think critically, concentrate, read with understanding and manage their learning to achieve the outcome they want. In brief, this course aids students to learn how to learn so that they can take control of their learning processes.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will:

- know how to apply self-management skills to guide academic performance
- understand the ways in which they learn best
- define their own goals and preferences in study
- know and use the vital study skills and strategies they need to become confident in class
- create and use study systems, think critically, concentrate, read and listen with understanding
- develop and implement strategies to manage their time effectively
- develop effective test and examination taking skills

Motivation to Learn

Assess Academic Strengths and Weaknesses

Discover Learning Styles

Develop Critical Thinking and Study Skills

Using Critical Thinking Strategies

Examine Assumptions

Make Predictions

Read With A Purpose

Sharpen Interpretations and read Implications

Evaluate what is learned

Setting Goals and Solving Problems

Set Goals for Success in University

Developing a Positive Attitude

Sharpening Classroom Skills

Prepare for Class

Become an Active Listener

Develop A Personal Note-Taking System

Guidelines for Note Taking

Creating Study System

The Basic Systems

Devising a Helpful Study System

Organizing Information for Study

Controlling Concentration

Concentrations

Eliminate Distractions

Using a Study System Effectively

Strategies to Improve Concentration

Improving Learning and Memory

How Memory Works

Increase Memory Power

Becoming an Active Reader

Reading Actively

Find the Main Idea, Details, and Implications

Using a Textbook Marking System

Preparing for Tests

How To Prepare for Tests

Organize and Review

Re-write notes

Read assignments

Develop a Test-taking Routine

Reducing Test Anxiety

Eliminate the Causes of Test Anxiety

Learn to Relax

Face Fears and Think Positively

Teaching Methodologies

Lectures, class discussions, small group work, and assignments.

Course Assessment

The continuous assessments for this course will account for 60% of the final course mark; the final examination will account for 40% of the final course mark.

UFP 203 Understanding the World Today 60 CH 4 CU

Course Description

This course in the University Foundation Programme is a general course that is intended to sharpen students' critical thinking skills by exposing them to ideas and issues crucial in understanding the world today. The course will stimulate debate on numerous issues including development, current affairs, poverty, globalization, international relations, the world's changing political economy, culture, consumerism, and gender and environmental issues. The course will use materials from newspapers, the internet, and television.

Course Objectives

This course will:

Allow students to engage in critical debate while learning the difference between fact and value judgements

Inform them about developments in the world today

Give them an in-depth knowledge of current affairs and how to interpret “news”

Engage students in accepting different views and opinions and defending beliefs

Course Outline

Current perspectives on world development

Development in Africa

Introduction to Globalization

The Benefits and Threats

Africa and Globalization

Africa's Place in the World

Introduction to International Relations

Who is Who on the Global Stage?

The Politics of International Relations

Wars and Conflicts

Global Political Economy

The Shifting Face of the Superpowers

Introduction the Gender Concepts

Equality or Difference?

Why Worry about Gender Issues

What is Culture?

The Role of Culture

Culture and Modernity

Cultural Difference and Conformity

Consumerism and Poverty

The Importance of the Environment

The Environment and Poverty

Teaching Methodologies

This course will rely chiefly on class discussion and participation in order to achieve the course aims and objectives. Lectures will introduce topics and give information; students will learn how to analyse information, formulate opinions, structure arguments, and defend beliefs while accepting that others may have different beliefs and opinions.

Course Assessment

This course will be assessed through class participation (10%), written assignments (40%), and a final examination (50%).