

FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES: GENERAL EXPERIENCE

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Foreign languages for Specific Purposes in National University for Food Technologies are a learner-centered approach to teaching foreign languages as an additional language, which focuses on developing communicative competence in a specific discipline, such as engineering, technology, academic writing and learning. Students are also exposed to academic culture and real world communication practice. These classes focus on the development of job-specific foreign language skills for students who seek to enter or advance in their professions.

To help facilitate the integration of internationally educated professionals (IEPs) into professional workforce, the job-related foreign languages department in National University for Food Technologies has established the foreign languages for Specific Purposes (FLSP) Program.

The FLSP Program is an enhanced foreign language program designed to provide IEPs with exposure to the professional context and field specific language communication training in order to best use their technical expertise in their future professional sphere of activity. Currently, we offer programs for those with a background in: Engineering, Technology, Hotel and Management, Tourism, Science and Technology. Our students also learn about cross-cultural awareness, especially as it applies to the workplace. Upon completing the course, students can expect to have the language skills they need to be independent and successful in their professional or academic careers.

Foreign languages for Specific Purposes will provide students with opportunities to improve their foreign language skills, particularly in the area of technical communication: the process of creating, designing, and transmitting technical information so that people who may be unfamiliar with engineering terms and practices can understand the information easily and use it effectively and efficiently. The anticipated outcome is that students will have the language skills necessary to independently facilitate their own successful participation in further professional or academic activities. This course continues from the foundation built in the "Foreign languages for Professionals" course in the areas of writing and oral communication, and will focus on refining effective strategies for clear, concise technical communication. The program content also incorporates grammar and culture elements relevant to internationally educated engineering professionals working.

KEY WORDS: course, foreign languages, internationally educated professionals, language skills, program, Specific Purposes.