

CENTER FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES (CLS)



Message from the Advisor

Welcome to the Center for Language Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh.

The Center offers foundation courses for English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and makes students aware of specific elements of academic reading, writing, speaking and listening, necessary for higher education. The courses are arranged according to levels and additional supports are given, so that the linguistic needs of students from various demographic, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds are catered. The interactive classrooms also encourage cooperative and collaborative learning among students. Their participation in projects, poster presentations, and cultural activities improves their critical thinking, creativity, and communication and leadership skills.



The most important strength of the Center is its dynamic and highly educated teachers. They are sensitive towards students' individual needs and ensure a holistic learning environment with a variety of pedagogic practices. Consequently, the diverse learning needs and preferences of auditory, visual, or kinesthetic learners are addressed.

The Center has already introduced a Japanese language course in order to prepare students for the global job market. It also intends to begin language courses in Chinese, Spanish, and French soon.

The brochure presents glimpses of some of the events and activities that the Center has organized in collaboration with British Council, Dhaka, cultural centers, and embassies.

Professor Shaila Sultana, PhD
Advisor to CLS, ULAB
Adjunct-faculty, DEH, ULAB

Department of English Language
Institute of Modern Languages
University of Dhaka

Center for Language Studies (CLS) at a glance

The Center for Language Studies (CLS), which was launched in July, 2014, exemplifies ULAB's commitment to international standards of education and promotes cross-cultural awareness among students by providing quality courses in English and other foreign languages. CLS provides courses and services to address the professional, academic, and practical language needs of students, staff and faculty. CLS also contributes to the academic mission of the university by creating a platform for generating and disseminating new knowledge in the field of foreign language learning.

At present CLS offers well designed and skill based comprehensive courses for students of pre-intermediate, intermediate and upper-intermediate level. Courses are designed focusing on all four language skills, accentuating academic writing and presentation skills. Our devoted and highly professional faculties uphold the values of responsibility, creativity, adaptability, clarity, tolerance, empathy and sustainability. In order to achieve these standards, our course materials are chosen carefully and designed according to students' needs. Classes are conducted with latest pedagogy using advanced technology. We also provide tutorial sessions for struggling students and monitor their gradual development.

Our faculties are upgrading themselves constantly through professional workshops, pursuing higher degrees, and engaging themselves in research and publications.

Faculty Members at CLS



Professor Shaila Sultana, PhD has been educated at Jahangirnagar University (Dhaka), Monash University (Melbourne), King's College (London), and UTS (Sydney). Her research interests are - *trans* approaches to language and identity and sociology and critical geography. She has authored numerous articles and book chapters. Her recent publications include a coauthored book, *Popular Culture, Voice and Linguistic Diversity: Young Adults On- and Offline* (Routledge, 2017), chapters in *Language and Culture on the Margins: Global/ Local Interactions* (Routledge, 2018) and *Critical Inquiries in the Studies of Sociolinguistics of Globalization* (Multilingual Matters, 2019).

Ms. Shaheen Ara has 16 years' experience in teaching literature and language to undergraduate students at BRAC University, Presidency University & ULAB. She also taught BRAC employees at BRAC Center and designed new English language courses at both BRAC & ULAB. She works at ULAB, engaging in teaching and designing English language courses at Center for Language Studies (CLS) as Assistant Professor. Apart from teaching she was also an Advisor to ULAB Shangskriti Shangsad for three years and currently is responsible for organizing all cultural events at CLS.



Ms Rajia sultana is a senior lecturer at Center for Language Studies (CLS). She also worked at BRAC University. She has pursued her B.A (Honours) and M.A in English with double major in Literature and ELT from East West University. She has also received merit scholarship for outstanding academic result while studying at East West University. She has academic research publications at reputed peer reviewed journals. Her interest areas include critical thinking in language teaching and contemporary American literature.



Amiya Sadnam Chowdhury has been teaching English Literature and Language for six years. He is a fiction writer and an essayist. Before joining the Center for Language Studies (CLS), he worked as a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities (DEH), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). He has authored two books, published several short stories and essays in different renowned newspapers and magazines. Amiya Sadnam Chowdhury is currently working as a Senior Lecturer at Center for Language Studies (CLS), ULAB.

Ms. Fariha-Tuz-Zahra Chowdhury pursued her B.A (Honours) in English and M.A in Applied Linguistics and ELT at the University of Dhaka, Department of English. Prior to joining ULAB, she has worked both in public and private universities including Jashore University of Science and Technology, State University of Bangladesh and Daffodil International University. Ms. Fariha has a number of publications in reputed international journals including *The Warwick ELT Journal* by Hornby Scholars. She had been affiliated with Alliance Française De Dhaka for French Language Learning. Currently, she is working as a lecturer at CLS, ULAB.



Ms. Amreen Mahmood Islam received her Bachelor of Arts in English with a major in Linguistics, having the distinction Magna Cum Laude from the North South University, Bangladesh. She completed her Masters in TESOL with the distinction Summa Cum Laude from the North South University, Bangladesh. She has more than three years of working experience. She has dealt substantially with international students which has enabled her to understand diverse requirements of EFL learning.

Rezwana Islam has completed CELTA (The Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) as a part of Cambridge English Language Assessment, University of Cambridge. She has 5 years experience as a TESOL trainer in different educational institutions. Her experience as an IELTS trainer at British Council has enabled her to explore different areas of skill development. She is currently teaching at the Center for Language Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).



Ms. Iram Mehrin has been teaching English Language and Linguistics since 2017. She has teaching experience at Southeast University and ULAB. She has received multiple awards for her academic achievements which include Gold medal for MA, Dean's Merit award, 1st Prize for MA from EDAS (English Department Alumni Association), DU and a summer scholarship in the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, for her academic achievement in Spanish. She is also affiliated with American English E-teacher Program as an alumni and assistant facilitator of selective MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course) which is a program of US State Department. At present, she is working as a lecturer at CLS, ULAB.



Essential English Skills (Non Credit) ELL 099

One of the main problems many students face when they enter university is that they find it difficult to familiarize themselves with English medium instruction. By the time students do become familiar with the system of learning in another language, they have no more English courses to take which makes it extremely difficult for them to comfortably apply their English language skills to academic studies, let alone apply those same skills effectively and competently when they enter their chosen professions. To address this problem, ULAB has introduced a new non-credit English language course titled Essential English Skills ELL 099, which will focus on the necessary English language skills students will require in their respective disciplines.

This learner-centered, integrated-skills based, non-credit, elementary level English language remedial course is designed to equip students with the essential reading, writing, speaking and listening skills to cope with their university courses. The course also intends to develop their basic communication skills in the English language. Students will get acquainted with different reading strategies and steps involved in writing well-developed effective paragraphs for academic purposes. The variety of topics and perspectives presented in the class will also facilitate development of students' critical thinking.

Please note:

- Students who score below 4 in the writing section of the admission test will automatically be put into the non-credit English course.
- Students must pass Essential English Skills ELL 099 in order to register for ENG 101 the following semester.

List of taught courses (credit courses)

Basic English (ENG 101)

This learner-centered, integrated-skills based, pre-intermediate level English language course is designed to equip students with the essential reading, writing, speaking and listening skills to cope with their university courses. Students will learn how to add extra information, organize ideas, and write from research with a specific emphasis on basic academic writing skills and critical thinking. This course will also improve students' ability to communicate fluently and accurately through peer-cooperation and participation.

Fundamentals of English I (ENG 102)

This learner-centered, integrated-skills based, intermediate level English language course provides more intensive practice of academic communication skills. Students will learn how to gather information from different sources, analyze and evaluate the sources, and use them in academic writing with grammatical accuracy, coherence, and clarity. They will also get acquainted with different steps involved in writing well-developed and structured essays for academic purposes.

Fundamentals of English II (ENG 103)

This upper-intermediate level English language course is designed to equip students with advanced reading and writing skills for academic purposes. This course introduces students to the language of academic discourse and concentrates on improving students' critical reasoning and research skills. It provides students with techniques, guidelines, and suggestions to refine critical reading and academic writing skills. Additionally, this course is designed to help students produce grammatically accurate, unambiguous, and well-organized academic English.

Computer-Assisted Language Learning & Mobile-Assisted Language Learning

The Center for language Studies strongly believes in the use of Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) and Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL) – where students are encouraged to use their personal mobile phones, tablets, laptops in class. This not only brings variation to the class, but also encourages students to become autonomous learners – where the learners themselves are able to take charge of their own learning. With the use of

CALL/MALL all four skills – listening, reading, writing & speaking – are integrated through graphics, videos, animations and games.



Japanese Language Course

The Center for Language Studies (CLS) has launched a Japanese language course where the students will be introduced to Japanese language and Japanese culture. The course will focus on basic speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills. Japan, the third-largest economy in the world, is one of the most technologically advanced countries. According to the Japanese government, the country will require approximately 300,000 tech talents by 2020 to tackle its severe shortage of young engineers. However, one of the challenges for entering the Japanese job market is the language. The course's purpose is to make students eligible for the Japanese job market.



British Council Book Reading Programme

The Center for Language Studies organizes the British Council Book Reading Programme as a part of learner development. The British Council Book Reading Programme was introduced in 2015 with an aim to improve students' reading skills. Currently students are reading graded classics from different genres which include adventures, suspense, murder mysteries, romantic stories, travel stories, science fictions and so on. As an essential part of the course, students participate in poster competitions, drama, story writing, and other activities to develop all four language skills.



Cultural Events

CLS regularly organizes cultural events in different languages focusing on the themes of harmony, peace, hope, unity, environmental and cultural awareness. The fundamental principles of these cultural events are to create communication and establish understanding through language learning. Students get the opportunity to showcase their creativity and develop soft skills by organizing and participating in cultural events.



Study Trip

On the 10th of January, 2017, ten students from different departments of ULAB, led by the former Director of CLS Mr. ATM Sajedul Huq and accompanied by Assistant Professor Shaheen Ara, visited Chiang Mai University, Thailand to participate in a thirteen day language and cultural immersion program. The aim of the program was to help students gain exposure to different languages and cultures, while acquiring valuable life skills at the same time. The program was organized jointly by the Center for Language Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and the Language Institute, Chiang Mai University. It was the first trip of its kind by any Bangladeshi university to Northern Thailand. ULAB Students learnt basic Thai Language, Thai cooking, Muay Thai boxing, Lanna dancing and English Presentation Skills during their stay.



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ULAB students participating in language and cultural immersion program at Chiang Mai University, Thailand

The Center for language Studies, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, will participate in a thirteen day language and cultural immersion program at Chiang Mai University, Thailand from January 10 to January 23, 2017. Ten students from different department of ULAB, led by the Director of CLS Mr. ATM Sajedul Huq and accompanied by Assistant Professor Shaheen Ara, will be participating in the immersion program, where they will be attending various workshops hosted by the Language Institute, Chiang Mai University.

The aim of the program is to help students gain exposure to different languages and cultures, while acquiring valuable life skills at the same time. During their stay, students will not only have classes on Thai language, Thai cooking, Muay Thai boxing, Lanna

dance, presentation skills by native English speakers but will also visit the highest peak in Thailand: Doi Inthanon, different hill tribes, and elephant parks to learn about wildlife conservation. At the end of the program, students will be required to give final presentations as well as a performance to share their own culture and traditions with Thai students. Certificates are to be awarded to all the participating students from Chiang Mai University.

The immersion program is the result of an MoU signed between ULAB and CMU last year and is the first trip of its kind by any Bangladeshi university to Northern Thailand. It is being partially sponsored by Daehser Bangladesh Ltd and Honeybee Private Ltd. *

- Youth Desk





1st National Conference on Graphicdemia: The Role of Graphic Novels and Comics in Academia

CLS organized the first National Conference of its kind in Bangladesh, called “Embracing Academia: The Role of Graphic Novels and Comics in Academia” on 12th June, 2015. The conference was designed to bring comic book writers, artists, academicians and students together to envision an innovative approach to making education more fun and to be a catalyst for igniting their creativity.

The Chief Guest of the event was Ahsan Habib, Editor at UNMAD and a famous personality in our country, noted for his illustrations. A panel discussion, moderated by CLS director A. T. M. Sajedul Huq, was the signature event of the occasion. The panelists included Dr Sayeedur Rahman Institute of Modern Languages, Dhaka University; Juditha Olmacher Member, Board of Trustee, ULAB; Samir Asran, CEO, Mighty Punch Comics; Mehedi Haque, CEO, Dhaka Comics; Shahriar Khan, Daily Star, and Syed Rashed Imam Tanmoy, political cartoonist.



ESP Conference

Center for Language Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and bdnews24.com organized a daylong conference, the first international conference on English for Specific Purposes (ESP) in Bangladesh, titled “English for Specific Purposes: Could We Be More Specific?” on November 9, 2018. The conference focused on the issues regarding specific English language skills development in Bangladesh. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Foreign Minister, Govt. of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh was the chief guest, and Mark Krzanowski, Director, Center for Academic English, Surrey International Institute, the keynote speaker of the event. The academics, stakeholders, government officials and professionals from different sectors who attended the conference discussed why learning job-specific vocabulary and understanding related terminologies when entering a particular profession are compulsory for the learners and how to eliminate the existing gap between the English language courses that are taught in Bangladeshi universities and the actual language needs of employers. The conference was open to everyone, and approximately 100 people were in attendance.







UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGLADESH

Hs 56, Rd 4A (Satmasjid Road), Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209

Phone: 9661255, 9661301, 01730 082197, 01713 091936, 01714 161613

Fax: +88-02-9660610, www.ulab.edu.bd