

Mastering Academic English: Navigating Research in Swiss Universities

Coffee Lecture #1

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Coffee Lecture Objectives for today

- ✓ Gain an understanding of academic requirements at UZH
- ✓ Learn how to easily turn your school English into an academic language
- ✓ Know tools and support options for your course work

Quick introduction

- Pia Böhme (she/her)
- Liaison Librarian for Political Science
- Contact me: pia.boehme@ub.uzh.ch
- University Library (UB) has around 30 locations throughout Zurich and works closely with the Zentralbibliothek (ZB)
 - Your benefit? More resources! For example, the courier service between all UB and ZB locations: Within 24 hours on working days, you may request items from the library catalogue for loan at your favourite study location.



How to make use of the library services?

https://www.zi.uzh.ch/en/support/network/vpn_ISAC.html

<https://eduid.uzh.ch/linking/>

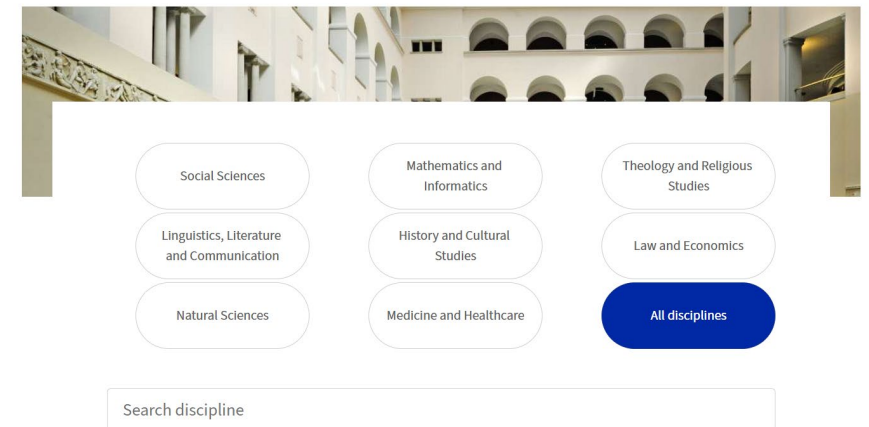
Create a SWITCH edu-ID and link it with your UZH identity

Install the UZH VPN client

Get familiar with the UB website and your subject-specific support

<https://www.ub.uzh.ch/en/unterstuetzung-erhalten/fachliche-unterstuetzung.html>

Subject-Specific Support



Academic requirements

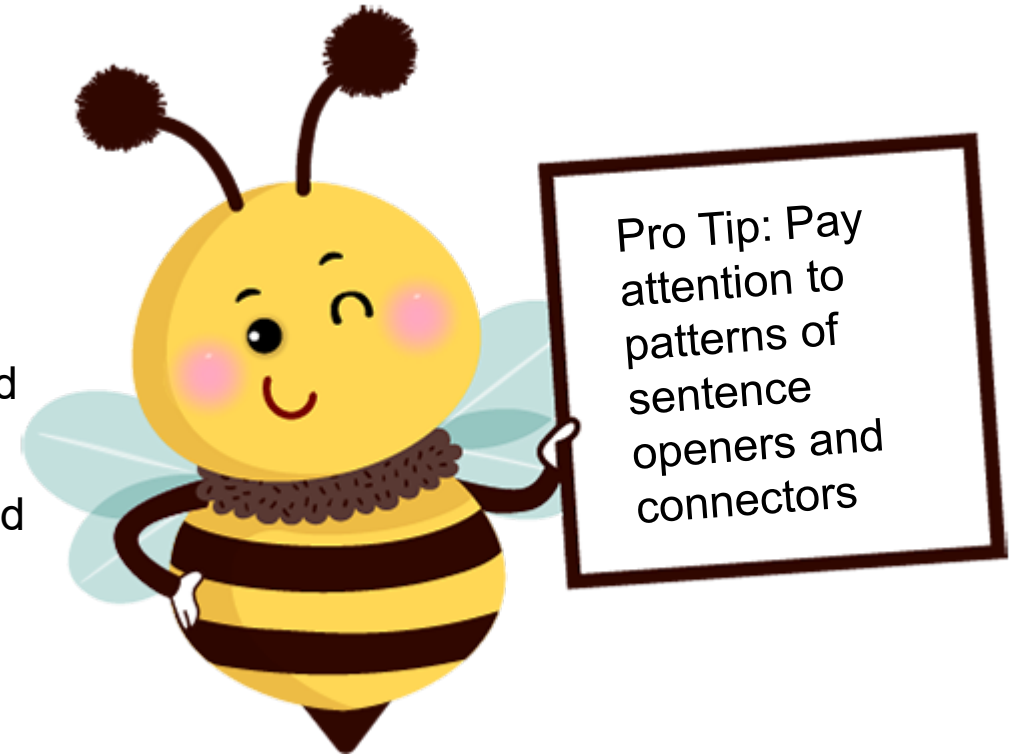
Academic adaption

- Studying at the University of Zurich means:
 - developing independent and critical thinking skills
 - welcoming new and unfamiliar ways of looking at the world
 - learning how to generate new ideas and gain fresh insights
- Find your way around: [Virtual Welcome Center](#)
- Academic adaptation issues may encompass challenges in academic writing, time management, independent study skills, and participation in class activities (Beregovaya & Kudashov, 2019) due to unknown teaching methods and core disciplines of the new educational environment (Phakiti & Lu-lu, 2011).
 - Ask for help: Buddy, [Student Association](#) (Fachverein), [Erasmus Student Network Zürich](#), your Mobility Advisor/ International Relations officer and of course your lecturers
 - Mental health issues: [Psychological counseling](#) available in German, English, French, Polish and Swedish

Academic Writing

Mastering Academic English

- Avoid overusing dashes. Learn to use colons, semi-colons, and parentheses
- Be careful with comma use; they should always serve a purpose and can change meaning. However, adverbials such as, in contrast, should be preceded and followed by a comma
- Do not use colloquialisms and slang: ~~‘He didn’t get it’~~ ‘he did not understand’.
- Be careful with gendered pronouns. Most nouns are referred to with ‘it’ (objects/animals) or ‘they’ (people)
- Avoid using the passive voice
- Beware of words that appear similar but have distinct meanings, e.g., critic/critique



Resources to make your student life easier

Research and academic writing

Tools

- Have a look at the [help-page of Swisscovery](#) to learn about refining your research
- Use an [Academic Phrasebank](#)
- Are you missing a word or unhappy with your text? Try using generative AI tools like [DeepL](#) for translations, [Grammarly](#) for grammar and [ChatGPT](#) for rewording sentences and paragraphs

Courses

- The Language Center of UZH and ETH offer [courses for academic English and German](#)
- Useful advice on research tools, information management and other topics from the field of research. The library's own [Coffee Lectures](#) are held digitally and over lunchtime.

Expert advice needed? Liaison Librarians are happy to help. Find your contact person on the [subject-specific support pages](#).

Political Science



Information Resources

- [Databases](#)
- [Daily and Weekly Newspaper](#)
- [E-Books](#)
- [Reference Works](#)

Search in swisscovery

- ↗ [My account](#)
- [New registration](#)



Quicklinks

- [Department of Political Science IPZ](#)
- ↗ [New acquisitions: December](#)
- ↗ [New acquisitions: November](#)
- ↗ [New acquisitions: October](#)
- [Acquisition suggestion](#)

Support and Courses

- [Book an Appointment](#)
- [Courses](#)



Locations

- [UB Political Science](#)
- [Zentralbibliothek](#)

Questions?



Gertruda Kaczmarek, M.A.



Pia Böhme

- [Book a Liaison Librarian](#)

Questions? Feedback?

Literature

- Beregovaya, O. A., & Kudashov, V. I. (2019). The problems of linguistic and academic adaptation of international students in Russia. *Интеграция образования*, 23(4), 628-640.
- Phakiti, A., & Li, L. (2011). General academic difficulties and reading and writing difficulties among Asian ESL postgraduate students in TESOL at an Australian university. *RELC Journal*, 42(3), 227-264.