

## Ecole Polytechnique – English in the first semester of your second year

Classes start on **8<sup>th</sup> September** and run until **22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017**: 14 classes in total (no class on 20/10 or 3/11)

**Absences** will affect your grade (more about that in a minute).

Three main areas of **focus**: Communication skills, Critical thinking skills, Professional skills

You've studied English for a number of years and your level has been evaluated at a B2-B2+ level for most of you (on the CEFRL: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). To operate effectively in a high-level professional environment, you need to have at least a C1 level and preferably C2. We usually see that students manage well when it comes to comprehension (reading and understanding spoken English), but are less at ease expressing themselves orally or in writing. Certain specific professional skills may need strengthening, such as presenting.

Make the most of your language classes by participating actively, but don't neglect your English outside the classroom – speak to foreign students in English, watch films, read books, magazines and websites, travel! If your grammar is weak, do language exercises on the Internet. I'll correct when necessary, highlight areas that might need revision and advise you on how to improve your language.

### **In class:**

To boost your oral expression, we will do a variety of activities, formal and informal: **language games, roleplays, discussions, debates and prepared oral presentations** in groups in front of the class. Presenting and public speaking are particularly important, and we'll look at improving your skills in every way, including intonation and body language.

The specific practical aspect of this semester is the writing of **CVs, cover letters and LinkedIn profiles**, as well as **job interview** simulation. We'll spend part of the first few lessons on this, but you'll need to produce your own CV and sample letter at home and hand it in for correction and grading. The CV has to be perfect by the time the X-Forum, Polytechnique's job fair, takes place: 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October, in one month.

After this period of concentrating on professional English, we'll be able to broaden our interests to include **current affairs, technological innovations, cultural aspects of English-speaking countries, media and cinema, public speaking, presentations and debates**. As I get to know your needs, interests and priorities, I'll be able to adapt the content of the classes.

What's expected of you and what you need to do to get a good grade:

1. You need to **come to class every lesson**. Sometimes clashes occur; if the activity or appointment means you will be absent, it will only be excused if the Direction des Etudes officially allows it. You must notify me in advance. Always keep me informed, even if you were ill and informed the school, remember to send me an email.

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2. You need to come to class **on time**. The 8.00 lesson starts at 8.00. It is impolite to me and to your fellow students to be late. It also messes up my lesson plan if I have to wait for people.
3. You need to **participate actively**. Take the opportunity to practice your English. Please refrain from speaking French in the classroom. Your fellow students are here to speak English, so practice together. Prove to me that you're progressing.
4. You need to produce **4 pieces of written work**, including a CV and a cover letter. You will also give prepared oral presentations and a short formal speech.
5. You will be graded on your **attitude and participation** and the **quality** of your work (written and oral). Your level has to be taken into account, but your **progress** is what interests me.

Do you have any comments or questions?