



English as a Second Language (ESL)

English as a Second Language is taught to international students studying at Fahan, at the level which is required for the individual. Initially, English as a Second Language would be timetabled as a large portion of the weekly curriculum if an intensive English course is required by the student. However, if the student's English language ability is more advanced, English as a Second Language will be incorporated into that student's timetable as required.

The course which Fahan provides, on a daily basis, assists students to establish and maintain effective communication using a range of spoken and non-verbal strategies. Through this course students will acquire the ability to process information, write in a variety of styles and assist them to understand the culture and values of Australian society.

English as a Second Language is a Tasmanian Certificate of Education course. There are four different stages and students are assessed against certain criteria. The ESL course will allow students to interact effectively both with small groups and on a one-to-one basis.

Learning ESL involves also learning to socialise in the new language and culture. The time it takes for an international student to function confidently in the new language varies according to a range of factors including previous educational experience, motivation and language aptitude. There is a basic pattern of ESL learning whereby students master conversational uses of English relatively quickly but need considerably more time before they can competently perform academic tasks.

The ESL program assists international students to become competent enough in English to take an effective part in mainstream social and educational activities in Australia.

The specific aims are to enable students to function in English in a wide range of social and learning contexts at school, to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English and to ensure that these skills are linked to all curriculum areas. In order to achieve this the course builds on students' linguistic and cultural identities in order to increase their confidence and motivation