

26/07/2000

HKUST's Summer English Program Receives International Recognition

An intensive summer program in English offered by the [Language Center](#) of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) has been accredited by the renowned [Institute of Linguists](#) (IoL) in the UK.

The summer school program, "English Plus 2000", is designed to help Form 4 students enhance their skills in written and spoken English in preparation for the HKCEE English Language examinations. It is the first English program for secondary schools students in Hong Kong to receive accreditation from the international language assessment body. IoL qualifications are well recognized by education, industry and in professional life as a solid measure of competence in language skills. Founded in 1910, the Institute aims to promote the use and learning of modern languages, and maintain professional standards in those languages. As an examining and certificating body, the IoL's Language Services Ltd. (LSL) carries out assessment and validation of qualifications covering a comprehensive range of modern languages.

"For many years, language teachers in Hong Kong have regarded accreditation by, and Membership of, the IoL as a 'badge' of their professionalism," said Melissa Megan, course coordinator of English Plus 2000.

"As competition in the job market becomes increasingly fierce, and prevailing standards of English a matter of concern among government as well as business circles, our program and its accreditation by IoL will enable students to gain a competitive edge, at an early stage in their education," she said.

Offered for a third year, the English Plus program is well known for its small class size (a maximum of 20 students per class), high-quality teaching, mock examinations and the opportunity it provides to access the language learning facilities of the University, as well as providing a stimulating and relaxing learning environment in which students can enhance their English skills. This year, 130 students have signed up for the English Plus courses. Upon completion of the courses and achieving the benchmark levels set by LSL, they will be awarded an IoL certificate.

Two programs are being offered this year: Program A focuses on spoken English and Program B written English. Program A commenced on 17 July, and will close on 28 July, while Program B will run from 31 July to 11 August.

Ms Sarah Robson, Head of LSL, will visit HKUST on Friday, 28 July to observe classes, interview teachers, and be involved in the examination moderation process.