

Cambridge English

Certificate in EMI Skills

English as a Medium of Instruction

Improving EMI skills for university lecturers

Client: Tecnológico de Monterrey

Country: Mexico



Lecturers at one of Latin America's largest higher education institutions have improved their EMI skills by using a blended training course from Cambridge English Language Assessment.

EMI – English as a Medium of Instruction — is increasingly used in degree and other courses by universities worldwide, including Mexico's Tecnológico de Monterrey, a major, multi-campus university and one of the largest in Latin America. Senior staff were aware, however, that a number of lecturers lacked the knowledge of instructional English required for undergraduate-level teaching. In response, Cambridge English provided a tailored EMI training course delivered using a blended, online approach comprising training modules and 'virtual classroom' sessions. This allowed lecturers from different sites to take part without having to travel – a flexible, convenient and effective alternative to a classroom-based course. Successful participants also received an international certificate, the *Certificate in EMI Skills*, proof of their ability to use English more effectively and appropriately in different teaching contexts.

Twelve lecturers took part in the first training course, representing academic subjects from Economics to Chemical Engineering. Although most participants had a good level of English, few had experience of using English to teach their subject, or had received any specialist EMI training. They therefore welcomed the opportunity to take a course focused on the specialist skills and knowledge required for effective

EMI. The 40-hour course comprised online modules, which use extensive video of Cambridge University lecturers, and scheduled 'virtual classroom' sessions during which delegates could ask questions and take part in group work. In addition, Cambridge English provided constant support to ensure delegates maintained progress through the course.

Overall feedback was very positive, with many delegates welcoming 'the agility of the sessions', the 'speed and focus' of the course, the 'interesting' and 'relevant' course content, and the interactivity offered by the virtual classroom. As a result, Tecnológico de Monterrey plans to run more EMI courses for its lecturers, and also plans to combine EMI study with a higher-level English language teaching qualification, also from Cambridge English, in order to further enhance teacher development.

'I was very happy to have the opportunity to follow the EMI course... and very grateful to the online teachers — they were very professional and I learned a lot from them. The way they managed the online course was a model for me to follow.'
