

# Professional English for Clinical Microbiology

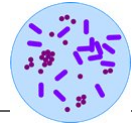
## Introduction

Professional English for Clinical Microbiology is an introduction to Scientific English thought to be applied in vocational education, specifically in Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory qualifications. In the Spanish educational system, it means a two year course for 18 year old students that have finished their Baccalaureate and have been learning English as a second language for years. But, students in vocational levels have a wide range of academic backgrounds as there is an increasing number of adult students who have been out of the educational system for years and undertake studies again.

Content has been selected from the official Catalan curriculum. The project develops the most usual topics for the microbiology laboratory and some content related to epidemiology. It is structured in three units. The two first units are focused on practical issues and the related theoretical concepts. They explain the work-flow for microbiology tasks and how we report results to the clinicians. Unit 1 talks about what we have to do to obtain a bacterial culture, while unit 2 talks about what we do when we have already obtained a grown culture. Unit 3 focuses on public health aspects of microbiology to get the students familiar with the real context of bacteria and focus them about safe working practices. Each unit includes worksheets, assessment, teaching notes, supplementary materials and lesson plan. And within the lessons there are web links to help the students with their work.

The special interest of this project, and others like this one, is to improve the professional skills of students. Nowadays, the scientific world speaks English as a means of global communication. If you are not familiar with English and rely on information only written in your mother tongue, opportunities for your professional development may pass you by. Clearly, better skills mean better employability. This is the first aim for vocational students and they are keen to accept anything that may help them to find a placement.

Professional English for Clinical Microbiology has been created as a CLIL project, splitting content into short doses to be worked on by students as active learners, using visuals and language support to help them. Going through the lessons, activities are progressively more demanding in language and thinking skills. Language is supported by means of a variety of strategies and, thinking about the diversity of students that enrol in vocational levels, there is some differentiation provided with the more difficult activities through alternative worksheets.



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