REPORT ON THE VALUE-ADDED COURSE ON

Academic Writing and Understanding the Ecosystem of Research

Conducted between 01-08 April 2023

ORGANISED BY

The Incubation Centre, St. Edmund's College, Shillong

In collaboration with

The Department of Political Science and the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), St. Edmund's College, Shillong

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Incubation Centre is thankful for the enthusiasm shown by **Syrpailin Lyngdoh**, Head, Department of Political Science, St. Edmund's College, Shillong. His suggestion for a collaborative effort led to the organisation of this course – the first with a deparment from the Faculty of Arts of St. Edmund's College.

C. Zonunmawia, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, efficiently coordinated this effort and shared his knowledge with the participants during one module. Although he left the employ of the college in August 2023, his contribution to the success of this course (and the college's larger initiative to expand reasearch output) will be missed.

Dr. (Capt). K. P. Pallavi Malhan, Vice Principal (Academics), **Dr. Samrat Adhikari**, Head, Department of Biotechnology, **Br. (Dr.) Simon Coelho**, Principal-in-charge, St. Edmund's College, Shillong, **Prof. Sumit Deb**, Coordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and **Ms. Priya Paul**, Technical Assistant, were steadfast in their support for this course.

GENERAL INFORMATION

a. **Title of the Course:** Academic Writing and Understanding the Ecosystem of Research

b. **Total Contact Hours:** 28

c. **Date of Approval:** 09 March 2023

d. **Opening of registration process:** 16 March 2023

e. **Closing of Registration Process:** 30 March 2023

f. **Mode of Registration:** Online ([Google Forms](#))

g. **Date for Commencement of the Course:** 01 April 2023

h. **Conclusion of the course:** 08 April 2023

i. **Duration:** 36 hours; including 12 hours for preparations and assessments

j. **Total No of Students Enrolled:** 27

k. **Registration Fee:** None

l. **Course Coordinators:** Dr. Oliver Nelson Gonsalves, Research Facilitator, St. Edmund's College, Shillong

C. Zonunmawia, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, St. Edmund's College, Shillong

COURSE STRUCTURE

The subsequent sub-section will highlight various aspects of the course, such as Course Description, the Programme, the Mode of the conduct of this course and the grading policy.

3.1 Course Description:

This five-module Value-Added Course is designed to familiarise students with elementary research etiquettes and enlighten them on acceptable and ethical practices in the field of research. To improve familiarity with the course content, the Course Coordinators referred to the recommended list of readings (specifically articles) based on the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) syllabus.

3.2 Programme of the Course:

This course was divided into five modules. The modules were shared between the Research Facilitator and C. Zonunmawia, with the focus on gradually introducing the students to the significance of research and its benefits in their present academic pursuits. The programme of the course is listed in the table below:

Date	Time	Module	Resource Person
Saturday, 01 April 2023	2:00-6:00	Basics of Academic/Research Writing	**Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves**, Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre
Monday, 03 April 2023	2:00-6:00	Critical Inquiry in Social Sciences	**C. Zonunmawia**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
Tuesday, 04 April 2023	2:00-6:00	Plagiarism	**Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves**, Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre
Wednesday, 05 April 2023	2:00-6:00	Plagiarism	**Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves**, Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre
Thursday, 06 April 2023	2:00-6:00	Publishing the Right Way – Avenues for publishing your work	**Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves**, Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre
Friday, 07 April 2023	2:00-6:00	How to write a book review	**Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves**, Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre
Saturday, 08 April 2023	2:00-6:00	How to write a book review	**Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves**, Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre

Apart from the five modules, twelve hours were allotted for the assessment of the

students' assignments and their feedback on the conduct and *content* of the course. **All assignments received feedback** via personal e-mails from the Research Facilitator.

3.3 Mode of conduct of the Course:

An offline (physical) mode was followed for this course. The five modules were held in Room Number 18, in the Main Block of St. Edmund's College, Shillong.

3.4 Reference Materials:

The PowerPoint presentations from each module were shared with the students on Linways Learning Management System (LMS), after the conclusion of the day's proceedings. Moreover, additional readings which were relevant to Paper 07 (Government and Politics in North-east India) were discussed with the students during the first-four modules.

Slides discussing the ideal method to review a book were also circulated with the students.

3.5 Grading Policy:

Students were assigned the following grades, based on the complete course assessments.

Marks	Final Grade
90-100	A+
80-90	A
70-80	B+
60-70	B
50-60	C+
40-50	C
Below 40	Needs improvement

LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

Serial No.	Enrollment No.	Name	Department	Semester
1	20/POLS/171	Nengjoukim Kipgen	Political Science	VI
2	20/POLS/181	Nirvaan Teiborlang Pariat	Political Science	VI
3	20/POLS/184	Manhakani Passah	Political Science	VI
4	20/POLS/187	Lalawmpuii	Political Science	VI
5	20/POLS/192	Ochwaki M Siangbood	Political Science	VI
6	20/POLS/195	Anindita dev	Political Science	VI
7	20/POLS/376	Eric Adiel Yatbon	Political Science	VI
8	20/POLS/377	Memory Mukhim	Political Science	VI
9	20/POLS/390	Khrutshulu V Khamo	Political Science	VI
10	20/POLS/196	Celestin Tynsong	Political Science	VI
11	20/POLS/396	Tiasunep Jamir	Political Science	VI
12	20/POLS/189	Comefast Ryntathiang	Political Science	VI
13	20/POLS/199	Bob Nangthianchinkhup	Political Science	VI
14	20/POLS/383	Atiya Parveen	Political Science	VI
15	20/POLS/392	Lalfamkima	Political Science	VI
16	21/POLS/317	Clare Chinneilam Haokip	Political Science	IV
17	21/POLS/332	Balaniewkor Thangkhiew	Political Science	IV
18	21/POLS/355	Rachel Allen Nikhla	Political Science	IV
19	22/POLS/041	Fastarwell Nongrum	Political Science	II
20	22/POLS/043	Mewanshwa Nongbri	Political Science	II
21	22/POLS/049	Fenderson Bamon	Political Science	II
22	22/POLS/032	Soferoiki Bang	Political Science	II
23	22/POLS/051	Dutre Maia Dkhar	Political Science	II
24	22/POLS/033	Sanaphi Samati	Political Science	II
25	22/POLS/054	Saphibanroi Shisha Susngi	Political Science	II
26	22/POLS/055	Nilisa Tariang	Political Science	II
27	22/POLS/079	James Dhar	Political Science	II

Figure 1 (below) is a graphical (semester-wise) representation of the list of registered participants:
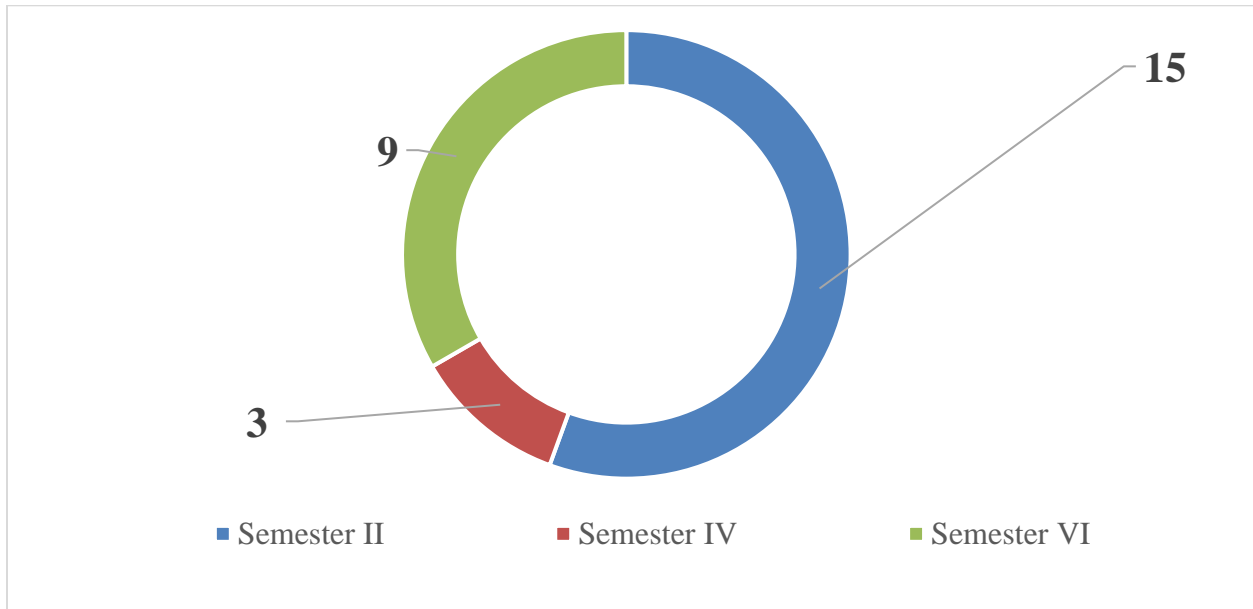
Figure 1: Semester-wise breakup of participants

ATTENDANCE

Sr. No.	Enrollment No.	Name	Semester	Attendance (%)
1	20/POLS/171	Nengjoukim Kipgen	VI	20
2	20/POLS/181	Nirvaan Teiborlang Pariat	VI	--
3	20/POLS/184	Manhakani Passah	VI	100
4	20/POLS/187	Lalawmpuii	VI	100
5	20/POLS/192	Ochwaki M Siangbood	VI	20
6	20/POLS/195	Anindita dev	VI	20
7	20/POLS/376	Eric Adiel Yatbon	VI	20
8	20/POLS/377	Memory Mukhim	VI	100
9	20/POLS/390	Khrutshulu V Khamo	VI	80
10	20/POLS/196	Celestin Tynsong	VI	--
11	20/POLS/396	Tiasunep Jamir	VI	20
12	20/POLS/189	Comefast Ryntathiang	VI	80
13	20/POLS/199	Bob Nangthianchinkhup	VI	20
14	20/POLS/383	Atiya Parveen	VI	20
15	20/POLS/392	Lalfamkima	VI	100
16	21/POLS/317	Clare Chinneilam Haokip	IV	60
17	21/POLS/332	Balaniewkor Thangkhiew	IV	100
18	21/POLS/355	Rachel Allen Nikhla	IV	100
19	22/POLS/041	Fastarwell Nongrum	II	100
20	22/POLS/043	Mewanshwa Nongbri	II	100
21	22/POLS/049	Fenderson Bamon	II	80
22	22/POLS/032	Soferoiki Bang	II	60
23	22/POLS/051	Dutre Maia Dkhar	II	100
24	22/POLS/033	Sanaphi Samati	II	100
25	22/POLS/054	Saphibanroi Shisha Susngi	II	100
26	22/POLS/055	Nilisa Tariang	II	100
27	22/POLS/079	James Dhar	II	100

ASSIGNMENTS AND RESULTS

During the modules, the Course Coordinators referred to the recommended list of readings (specifically articles) based on the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) syllabus. For instance, the Research Facilitator referred to the readings from Paper 07 (Government and Politics in North-east India). This would develop some familiarity with the content of the modules. Based on the modules taught during the course, two assignments were given to the students. These assignments followed a similar pattern as those given for VAC 03 (*Research Methodology)*, which was conducted in March 2023.

6.1 Methodology of evaluation:
The assignments carried ten marks each. Marks from the assignment were used to obtain a final percentage score.

Thus, if a student scored 8/10, then the final percentage was calculated as 80 (8/10 x100).

Only students who had scored a minimum of 40% and above are eligible for certificates (refer to Appendix C).

6.2 Composition of the assignment:
Students were expected to upload their submission on to the LMS. These assignments were designed to test rudimentary (online) research skills. They were given two weeks to submit (upload) their assignments, which the Research Facilitator evaluated.

6.3 Results:
The details of the marks scored and the final percentage attained is listed in the table below:

Sr. No.	Enrollment No.	Name	A I 10	A II 10	% of Marks	Grade
1	20/POLS/171	Nengjoukim Kipgen	--	--	--	--
2	20/POLS/181	Nirvaan Teiborlang Pariat	--	--	--	--
3	20/POLS/184	Manhakani Passah	10	5.5	77.5	B+
4	20/POLS/187	Lalawmpuii	10	10	100	A+
5	20/POLS/192	Ochwaki M Siangbood	--	--	--	--
6	20/POLS/195	Anindita dev	--	--	--	--
7	20/POLS/376	Eric Adiel Yatbon	--	--	--	--
8	20/POLS/377	Memory Mukhim	10	9.5	97.5	A+
9	20/POLS/390	Khrutshulu V Khamo	10	0	50	C+
10	20/POLS/196	Celestin Tynsong	--	--	--	--
11	20/POLS/396	Tiasunep Jamir	--	--	--	--

12	20/POLS/189	Comefast Ryntathiang	4	9	65	B
13	20/POLS/199	Bob Nangthianchinkhup	--	--	--	--
14	20/POLS/383	Atiya Parveen	--	--	--	--
15	20/POLS/392	Lalfamkima	9	10	95	A+
16	21/POLS/317	Clare Chinneilam Haokip	--	--	--	--
17	21/POLS/332	Balaniewkor Thangkhiew	--	--	--	--
18	21/POLS/355	Rachel Allen Nikhla	--	--	--	--
19	22/POLS/041	Fastarwell Nongrum	--	--	--	--
20	22/POLS/043	Mewanshwa Nongbri	10	9	95	A+
21	22/POLS/049	Fenderson Bamon	--	--	--	--
22	22/POLS/032	Soferoiki Bang	--	--	--	--
23	22/POLS/051	Dutre Maia Dkhar	10	8	90	A+
24	22/POLS/033	Sanaphi Samati	10	10	100	A+
25	22/POLS/054	Saphibanroi Shisha Susngi	10	5.5	77.5	B+
26	22/POLS/055	Nilisa Tariang	9	5.5	72.5	B+
27	22/POLS/079	James Dhar	10	10	100	A+

Out of the 27 students who registered for the course, only 12 passed this course. Thus, **this course had a passing percentage of 44.44%**. Fifteen students did not submit any assignments (listed in the table above as AI and AII). **Figure 2** below is a graphical display of the percentage scores of the 12 students who passed this course.
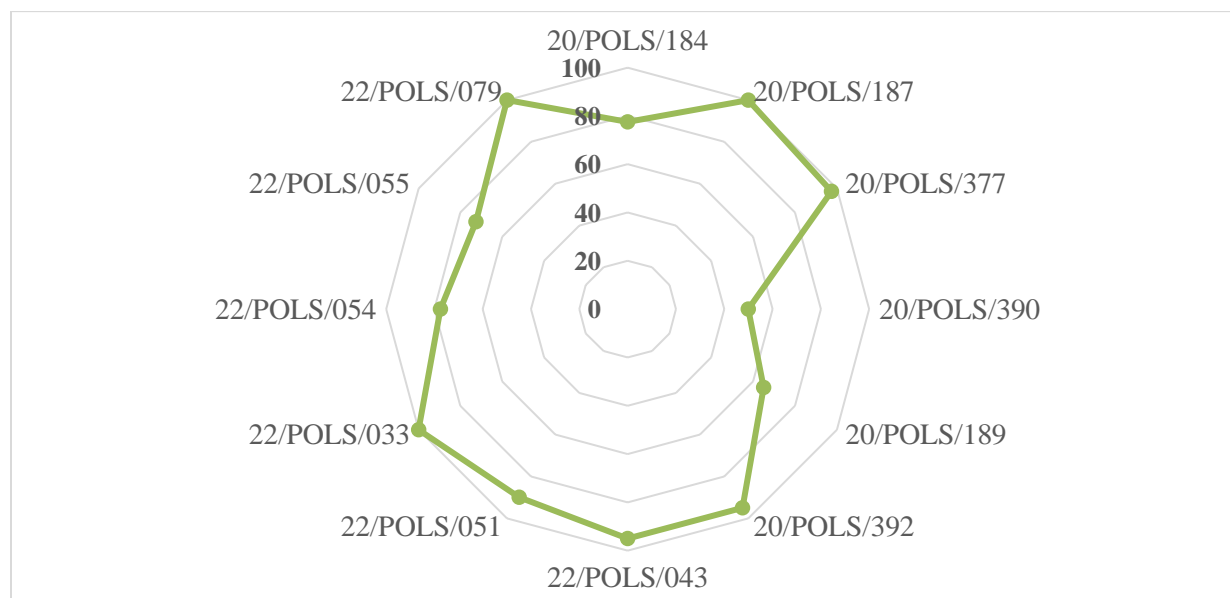
Figure 2: Percentage score of successful students

Note: This data was plotted using MS Excel.

Based on the assessment of the assignment, appropriate grades were awarded to the student. While the scores (marks) for the assignments were awarded on Linways, the grades were only included in the certificates.

6.4 Analysis:

Based on students' assignments and classroom interactions, this report has noted the following:

a. Assignment I required students to find ten journals which were relevant to their field. Some students were unable to distinguish subject-specific journals.

b. Despite the creation of a sample template for the submission of assignments, some students were unable to conform. For instance, students were not familiar with the method to hyperlink words. Short courses on the operation of the Microsoft Office suite could remedy this weakness.

c. A widespread failure to distinguish journals from books was observed. Emphasis on studying from the recommended list of readings (specifically articles) based on the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) syllabus.

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

A Google Form was designed to assess feedback from the students. The link (URL) of this form is:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSXZgEVUjVOD1haZtcC-gvWt-Vpt93IV0YXBVhEvW8AdAEMA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Out of the 27 students who registered for this course, only nine students responded to the Research Facilitator's request for feedback. Their responses are depicted below.
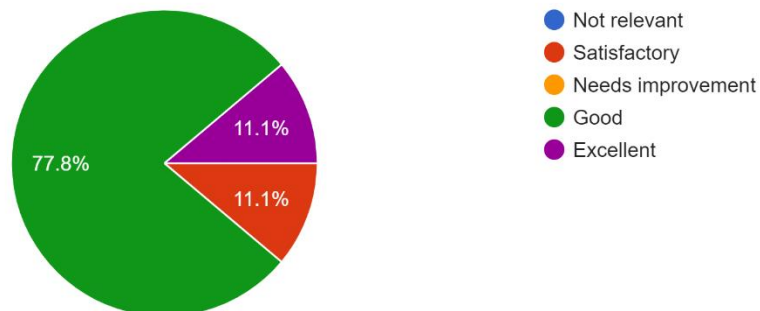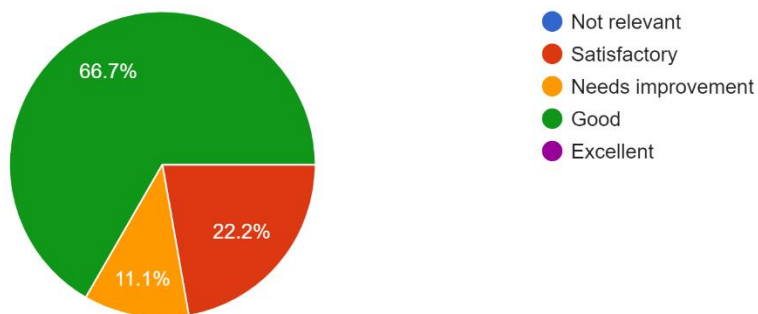
Semester
9 responses
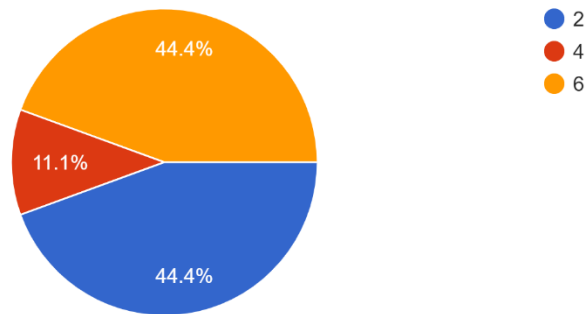
Were the objectives of the course clear to you?
9 responses

How was the structure (organisation/planning) of the course?

9 responses

- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

66.7%
22.2%
11.1%

The Research Facilitator taught you using screenshots and printouts of real e-mail exchanges and templates of articles. He also did not circulate cla... How satisfied were you with this kind of teaching?
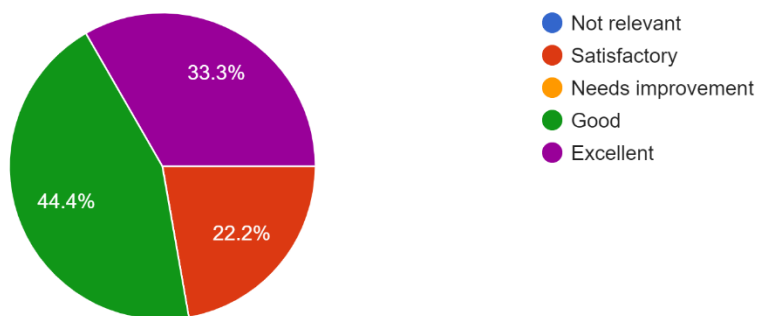
9 responses

- Not satisfied
- Satisfied
- Needs improvemnt
- Good
- Excelelnt

44.4%
33.3%
11.1%
11.1%
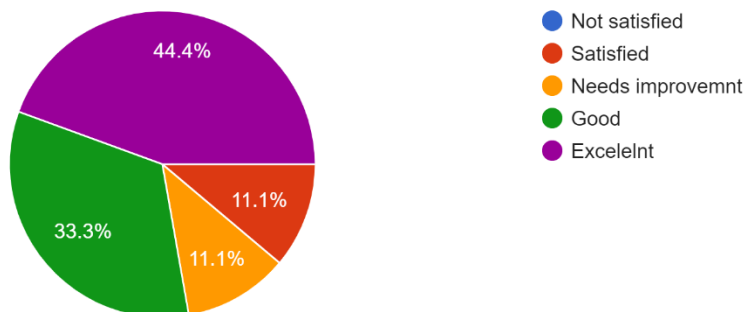
Did the content of the course enhance your understanding of 'research' in your subject?

9 responses

- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
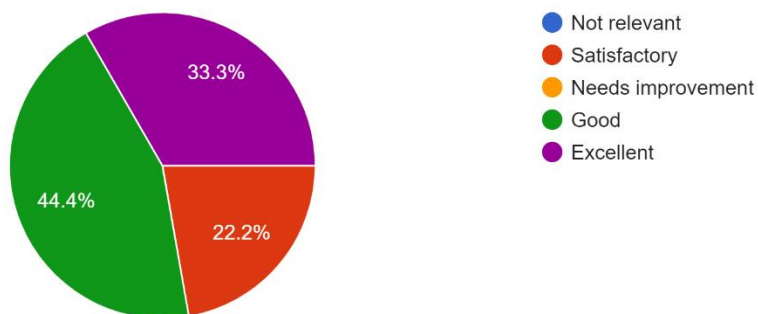- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

44.4%

55.6%

Did the course content familiarise you with the ecosystem (process) of publishing your work in academic journals?
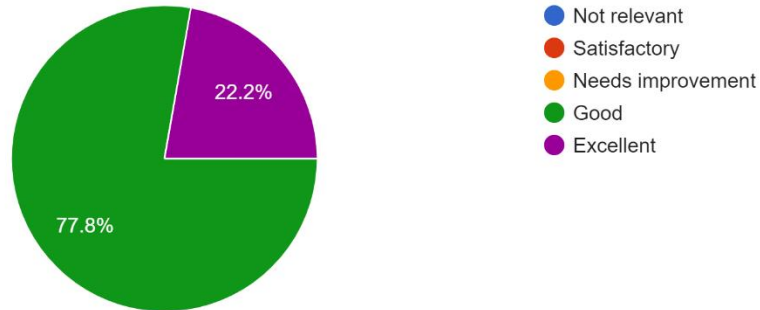
9 responses

- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

33.3%

44.4%

22.2%

How relevant did you find the assignments?

9 responses

- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

33.3%

44.4%

22.2%

Were the sessions interactive enough?

9 responses

- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

22.2%

77.8%

How would you describe this course to your friends?

9 responses

- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

44.4%

11.1%

44.4%
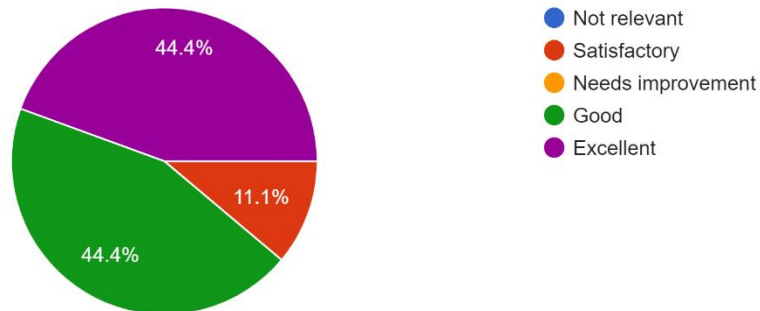
Do you have any **<u>SUGGESTIONS</u>** for the Research Facilitator on how to improve this course?

a. Including practical assessments would be more helpful.
b. Sending the PPT first and asking the students to do some homework before joining the course. In this way they'll be familiar with the content.
c. Good work, keep it up.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There were no financial implications on the college.

Organised by the Incubation Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, and the Internal Quality **17**

Assurance Cell (IQAC), St. Edmund's College, Shillong

APPENDICES

The following materials were used as supplementary material to enhance the merit of this course:

9.1 Appendix A (Brochure)

Value-Added Course - Academic Writing and Understanding the Ecosystem of Research
Organised by the Incubation Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, St. Edmund's College, Shillong.

Introduction

As higher education in India gradually moves towards a more holistic and interdisciplinary model, research — especially at the undergraduate level — has become the focus of capability-enhancement activities within Indian universities. It is being promoted to enhance the skill sets of Indian graduates and prepare them for opportunities in higher education and industry. Such an initiative not only requires familiarity with contemporary research practices but also an understanding of the "ecosystem of research" (National Education Policy 2020, 45).

Target Participants

The course is only open for the Honours students of the Department of Political Science (ALL SEMESTERS), St. Edmund's College, Shillong

Course Content

Content	Hours
Module I: Basics of Academic/Research Writing	4
Module II: Publishing the Right Way – Avenues for publishing your work	4
Module III: Plagiarism	8
Module IV: How to write a book review	8
Module V: Critical Inquiry in Social Sciences	4

Objectives

This five-module Value-Added Course is designed to familiarise students with elementary research etiquettes and enlighten them on acceptable and ethical practices in the field of research.

Course Fees
NO COURSE FEE

Presenter(s)
- Oliver Nelson Gonsalves, PhD, Research Facilitator, St. Edmund's College, Shillong.
- C. Zonunmawia, Lecturer, St. Edmund's College, Shillong.

Assessments*

Each module will have short assignments based on the practical knowledge disseminated during the class. The results shall be graded accordingly with analysis of the feedback. Assignments and feedback will be circulated using Linways.

Mode
This course will be conducted OFFLINE

*Participants who have completed ALL modules of the 36-hour course (including assignments) will be provided with certificates

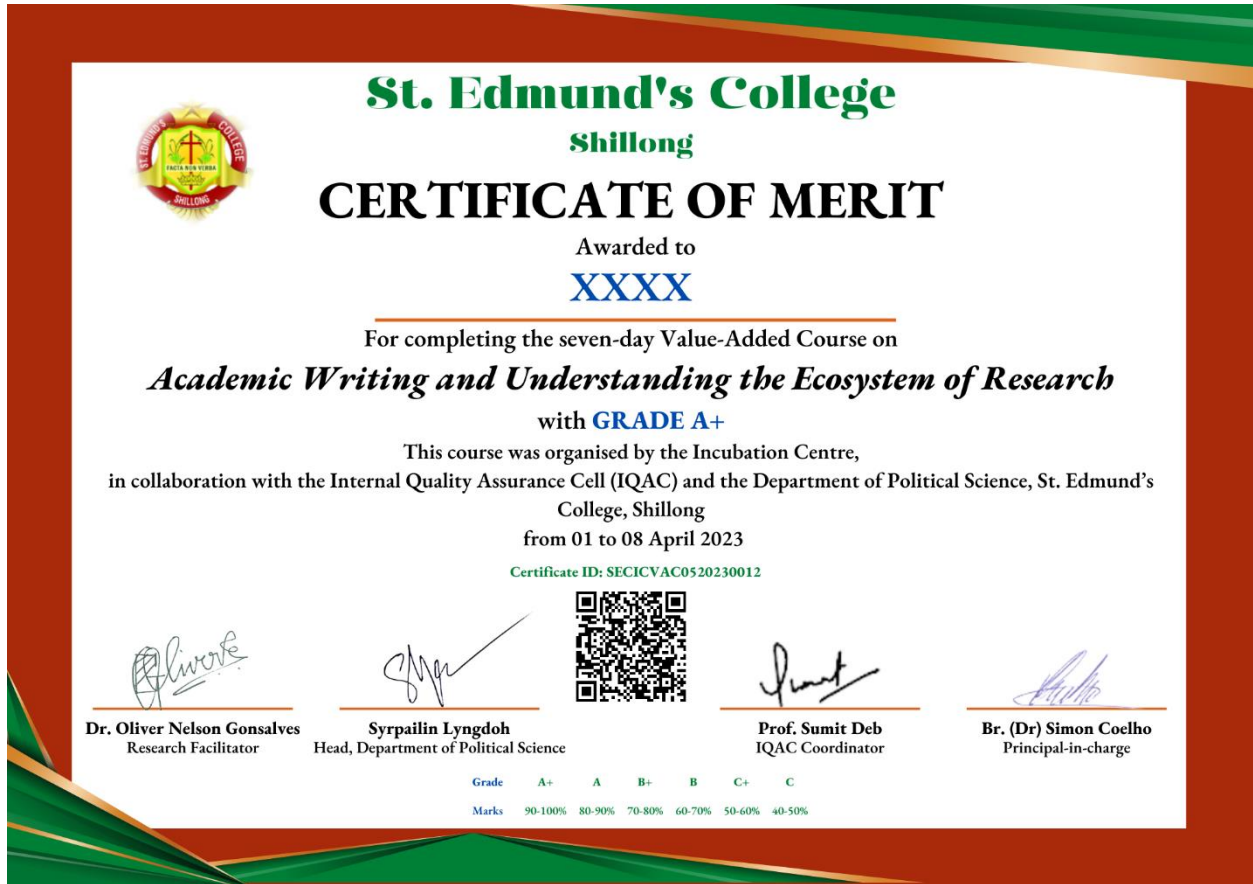**Kindly note all correspondence will be through e-mail only

How to Apply

REGISTER HERE

For queries, please contact**

Oliver N Gonsalves, PhD
Research Facilitator
Incubation Centre
St. Edmund's College, Shillong
Email id:
secincubationcentre@gmail.com

Important Dates

Registration Opens	16 Mar 2023
Registration Closes	30 Mar 2023
Commencement of the Course	01 Apr 2023
Timings	2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Module I	01 Apr 2023
Module II	03 Apr 2023
Module III	04-05 Apr 2023
Module IV	05-07 Apr 2023
Module V	08 Apr 2023

9.2 Appendix B (Template of the Certificate)