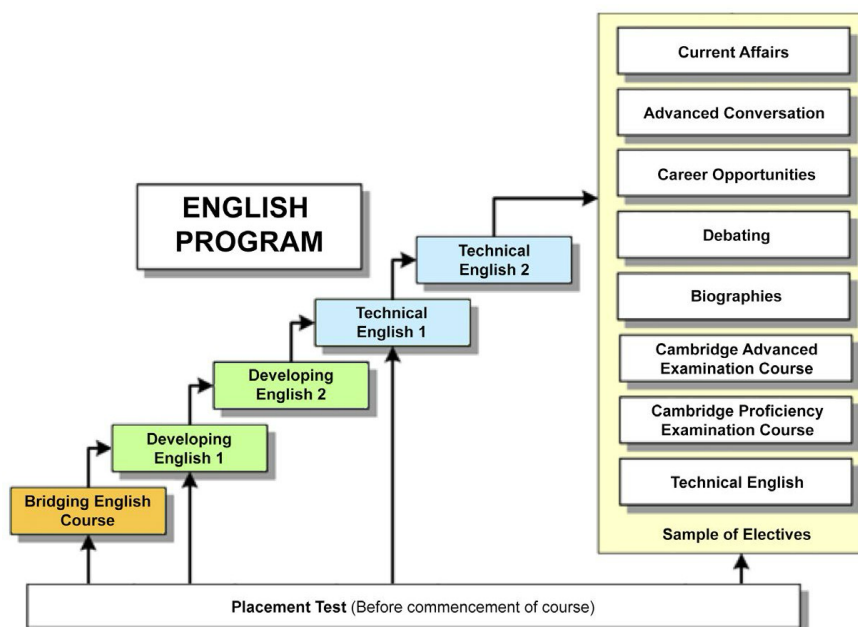## English Program at FHNW's Schools of Computer Science and Engineering and Environment

Learning a new language can significantly enhance one's life and career. With English being the primary language used not only in technology and business but to communicate with people everywhere, mastering it opens the door to a wealth of opportunities. It enables students to connect with people and form friendships, stay updated with the latest technological advancements, and potentially secure positions at multinational companies. Proficiency in English gives access to a vast array of knowledge, from technical documents to entertainment like films, music, and video games.

The English Program at FHNW's School of Engineering and Environment and its School of Computer Science aims to enable and empower its students with a wide variety of courses for every level of language acquisition. It is divided into core modules and electives:

Basic Modules

The basic modules are divided into Developing English, a foundation course aimed at improving your general language skills, and Technical English, aimed at helping you communicate more successfully in technical and industrial specializations. The courses must be completed in sequential order.

The basic modules are based on levels B1+ to C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

English Electives

The elective modules, based on CEFR levels B2 to C2, are designed to further improve your English language skills and specialized communication knowledge but also to give you footing in a broader range of interdisciplinary subjects such as Debating, Career Opportunities, Science Fiction, and Film Studies, thereby bridging the gap between technology, business and the arts.

Students placed directly into the Electives level must complete at least one Technical Elective during their studies.

Placement

Students entering FHNW's School of Engineering and Environment and its School of Computer Science are required to do an online placement test, the results of which are used to place them in either the core modules or the elective modules.

Students must reach a score of at least 40 points to enter the English program. Students who do not reach this level must complete a Bridging Course (without ECTS).

Students are either placed in Bridging English, Developing English 1, Technical English 1, or Electives (see image above). Students are required to complete a total of eight credits during their studies in English.

Credits

Students may apply to receive credits for the following successfully completed certificate courses:

- Cambridge BEC Higher Certificate (4 credits: 2 for BEC1 and 2 for BEC2)
- Cambridge Advanced Certificate (4 credits: 2 for CAE1 and 2 for CAE2)
- Cambridge English Proficiency (4 credits: 2 for CPE1 and 2 for CPE2)
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Students must have an official Cambridge certificate that is not older than two years. Students who receive credits for Cambridge courses can no longer attend these.