

Certificate Course in Phonetics

The Lords Universal College of Education is committed to nurturing its student teachers to develop into ready professionals and competent teachers.

In this direction, the institution identifies the most common drawbacks of students that may prove hurdle for them in future to get jobs in good schools or also in their interaction with students in the teaching-learning process or with other stake holders. One of the very crucial aspects that any teacher needs to have mastery over is communicating the expertise to the learners. The verbal medium of communication in this context becomes very important for common understanding of the learning message sent by the teachers. There are many factors in the language used as a medium of instruction that can become barriers to effective communication. One of these is pronunciation. Mastery over language is observed also through the way the words are uttered.

Institution offers a certificate course **in Phonetics** for such students by considering following objectives:

- To cater to the individual needs of the students
- To enhance the proficiency of the students in English pronunciation.

The Course covers all the main aspects of English phonetics:

- phonemic system (vowels and consonants)
- segmental analysis (allophonic processes)
- word stress
- weakening and co-articulation processes
- intonation and meaning

These topics are dealt with using interactive strategies like inquiry, discussion, experiential learning etc. Speaking and listening is equally focused in the course deployment. Learners get plenty of practice in pronunciation performance (sounds, more importantly, in connected speech) and in auditory discrimination (ear-training).

The **main strand** of 'Certificate Course in Phonetics' pays particular attention to the challenges of English pronunciation for native speakers of other languages. We cover the English consonant and vowel systems, and examine the phonetic characteristics of connected speech, analyzing the ways in which the pronunciation of words in discourse typically differs from their 'dictionary' pronunciation. The lectures, ear-training and practical classes focus on English phonetics rather than on phonetics in general.

Alongside this main strand, we also conduct an examination to test the skills achieved by the learners.

The course is well researched in terms of identifying common mistakes made by students while pronouncing certain words in English, the survey was conducted to find out the readiness of the students about the course.

The first course is scheduled to be launched in the first week of April on a pilot run. The effectiveness of the course will be analysed through students' achievement test and their opinion about it post course and the modifications will be made to make it more refined and need based.

The course will be conducted by a well-qualified staff member, who has an advanced course on Phonetics and Phonology run by University of Mumbai to her credit.

Perspective plan:

The institution intends to offer the certificate course to the learners from the institution and beyond it too as an integral part of its community outreach campaign.

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