Syllabus for Short Listening Module

General Learning Outcomes
The course aims to help students develop their ability to understand the overall message of a range of authentic spoken texts as well as detailed specific information.

Specific Learning Outcomes
During the course, you will work on:
- Improving your ability to use the context of the spoken text and the relationship between the speakers to help you understand its overall meaning.
- Improving your ability to activate your background knowledge of the situation and use this to understand the global message of a spoken text, even if you don't understand every single word it contains.
- Realising that ‘guessing’ short parts of the recording that you haven’t managed to catch is a valid communication strategy used by effective listeners, including native speakers.
- Helping you to become more accustomed to a range of different English accents, including British, American and Indian English.
- Developing your ability to see how different speakers can organize information in different ways: recognizing redundancy and ignoring phrases such as fillers and false starts.
- Helping you to understand how sentence stress can help listening: picking out the key content words of the message and using these to build up the meaning of the message.
- Improving your ability to understand how the pronunciation of individual words can change when they are said in a sentence due to a range of features of connected speech:
  - That words can link up together, making it difficult to hear where one word stops and the next word begins.
  - That some sounds can disappear (elision).
  - That extra sounds can appear between words (intrusion).
  - That sounds at the beginning and end of words can change (assimilation).
  - That some ‘grammar’ words have a weak form which can make them difficult to catch in the stream of speech.
- Reflecting on the listening process and building up a range of sub-skills and strategies to use actively and consciously in future listening experiences.

Prerequisites:
To enrol in the course, students should:
- have completed and passed a CLA level B2a course no more than 12 months prior to the sign-up date, or
- complete the CLA placement test with a B2b level (the test is valid for 6 months), or
- present an international B2 certification when signing up for the course (check which
qualifications are accepted on the "Certificates - Do you have a certificate?" page of the CLA website), or
- have passed a departmental or faculty exam organised by CLA at minimum B2 level.

Course content:

More specifically, the course will work on:

1. Listening to a range of authentic texts e.g. radio programmes, TED talks, YouTube clips on a range of topics relevant to university students and their future careers.
2. Listening to speakers with a range of different accents and indentifying their key features.
3. Becoming actively involved in the listening process, rather than passively expecting the text to make itself clear.
4. Using background knowledge and knowledge of context to predict content of listening.
5. Listening to check predictions, not worrying about understanding every single word of the recording.
6. Listening for stressed content words and using these to build up the meaning of the recording.
7. Making informed guesses about the meaning of missing parts of the recording.
8. Analyzing how features of connected speech can alter the pronunciation of individual words.
9. Listening to short sections of a recording several times, building up the text word by word, with the support and guidance of the teacher and fellow students.
10. Comparing the transcript with the spoken recording, looking at the differences and identifying some basic rules of connected speech.
11. Reflecting on how we listen in different contexts and with different types of spoken texts, and the implications of this in future listening experiences.

Teaching method:
An active approach is used, with students involved at the pre-listening, while-listening and post-listening stages, often working in pairs and groups with fellow students to predict content, check understanding, and unpack meaning from the spoken text. Lessons will focus on a particular listening sub-skill or strategy, allow students to put it into practice, and then encourage them to reflect on how this can help them become successful listeners in the future.

Texts:
Materials will be provided by the teacher.