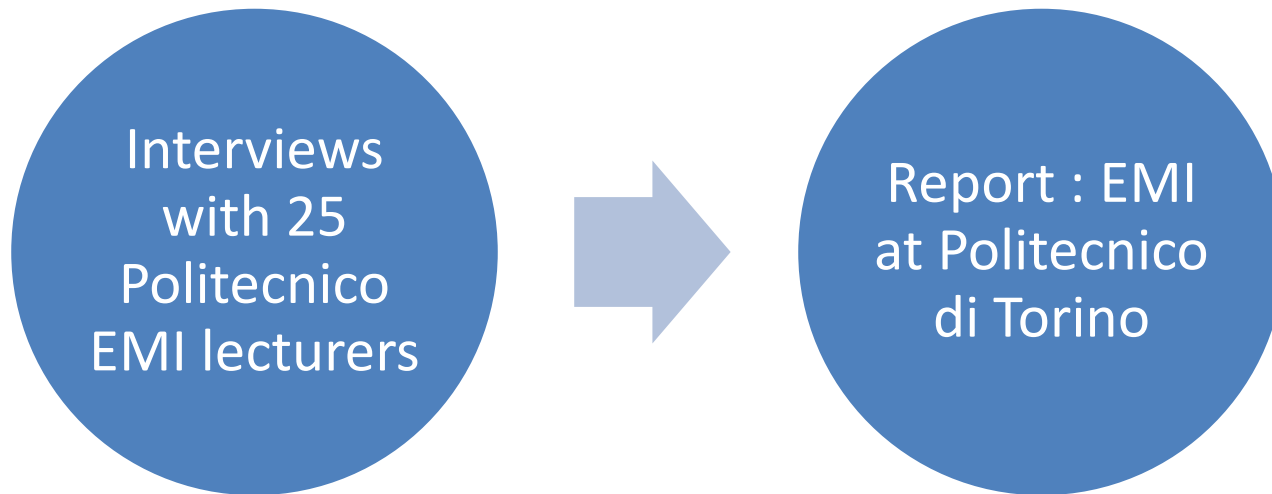
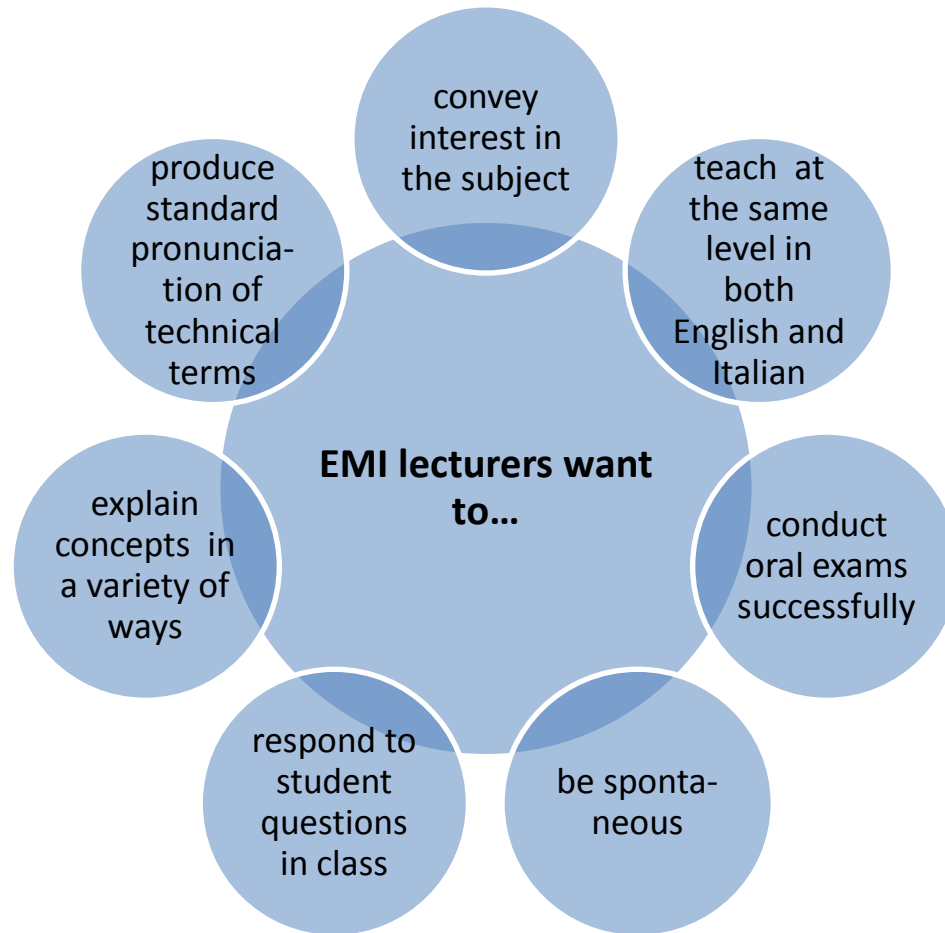


English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) at Politecnico : lecturer views



Language goals of Politecnico EMI lecturers



Vox pop: lecturer comments on EMI

It is difficult to make jokes (in English)

Technical explanations are not too demanding linguistically
Slides are restricting and take away interaction

Giving examples and explanations with limited vocabulary is not always possible. I can't say things in English in lots of different ways, as I can in Italian

In English my lessons are drier and less motivating for students

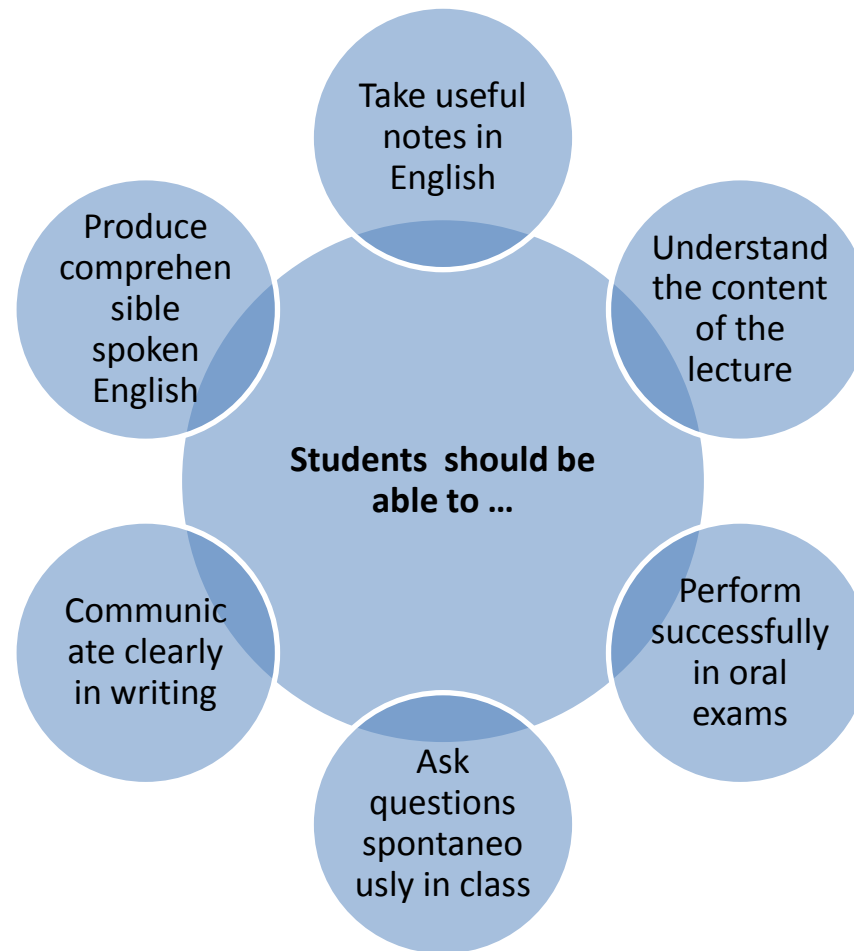
If your English is not good you need to modify your method more. The way you teach is dependent on your level of English

My tone of voice is flat as I have to concentrate on vocabulary and grammar

Some students accents are very hard to understand

I know an academic who is brilliant but when he teaches in English he's terrible

Politecnico lecturer expectations of EMI student language skills



Vox pop: lecturer comments on student level of English

Students find listening to more than one teacher is difficult

Low student level of English is an impediment to learning

Students have a mixed level of English

My students' level of English is awful

Taking notes presents problems

Some students need help in writing



Future institutional requirements for EMI students?

Students should have a B2 entry level?

Students should attend a compulsory study skills in English course?

Using visual techniques

- Slides
- Coloured chalks on the board
- Pictures and graphics

Paying more attention to clarity and comprehension

- Speaking more slowly
- Repeating concepts more often
- Asking more questions in class

How Politecnico lecturers are adapting to EMI classes

Involving the students more

- More Interactive lessons
- More practical exercises in class
- Asking more questions
- Using breaks to speak to students

Changing Content

- Cutting content
- Using more international examples

Cultural issues



Different
cultural
backgrounds

- Students do not always understand **what is expected** of them
- Students of the same background often **form closed groups**
- **Communication** can be **problematic**

Different
academic
backgrounds

- Teachers face **diverse cultures of learning**
- **Learning outcome not uniform** for Italian and non-Italian students

Vox pop: Cultural issues

Remember these are people; all individuals with their own backgrounds, some very far from home...

It's hard to say how much is subject knowledge and how much is the way people learn

Students remain physically separated by nationality

The classroom context changes every year

Foreign students are more reluctant to ask questions

For some foreign students it is culturally unacceptable to question teachers

Foreign students often don't do well in oral exams

Some students have translated my slides and put them on internet unofficially

Foreign students don't respond well to probing in oral exams and memorize answers

Some foreign students find it unacceptable to come to class and then not pass the exam

Most foreign students are better at written side of English; not so good at speaking



Institutional issues : Lecturer concerns

Student selection

- Entry level for English not adequate
- Some students lack the necessary academic skills for Politecnico courses
- Courses in English do not always reflect student interests

EMI teacher preparation

- No official standard of English for EMI lecturers
- Little institutional support for EMI lecturers
- EMI teachers often work in isolation

Lack of policy

- EMI is not standard: done in different ways in different departments
- EMI is not joined-up throughout the Politecnico
- EMI issues may affect quality of Politecnico graduates

Vox pop: Institutional issues

inadequate student recruitment policy has led to students re-taking exams many times..

There is a real language barrier and it prevents learning. The scientific message is not being conveyed.

Sometimes students study subjects that do not interest them just because they are available in English

Taking on classes from colleagues who teach badly in English means taking on students who have big gaps in their learning.

Politecnico gives students an initial test but no way of really selecting good students

I'm surprised there are no checks for teachers using EMI

At Politecnico: we first created the course and then found the students...it hasn't worked well.

Foreign qualifications are awarded with unknowable criteria which may be very different from those of Italian institutions

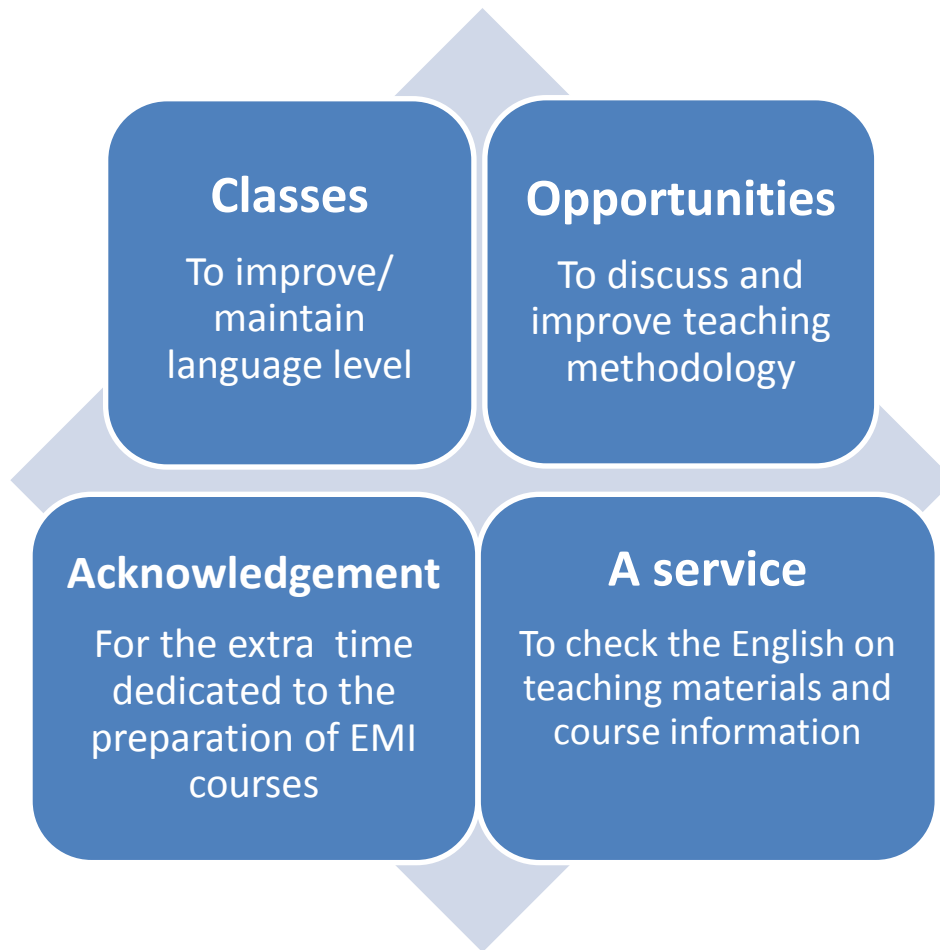
We should do some statistics to find out which nationalities take longer to pass their exams

Students complain that teachers cannot teach their programme in English

No attention has been paid by Politecnico to how to teach in English – it has been a top-down decision



What support would Politecnico EMI lecturers like to have?





Vox pop: Teacher support required

A mother tongue teacher should check our lessons in English; experts should show us how to teach

It's not just about speaking in English: it's about teaching.

It's difficult to improve English and teaching alone

The first year of teaching in English is difficult – it takes a long time to find terms and materials

I need to plan EMI lessons much more than lessons in Italian

The Politecnico should support my English language maintenance. It comes out of my own pocket

No one revises my English in slides and *dispense* and this is a problem

I have been given no help to teach in English

Nobody has ever taught me how to teach

There is no space at the Politecnico to discuss teaching

Lecturer suggestions for an EMI training course

observation in class	methodology	techniques
discussion	pronunciation - key words, technical words	formal /informal English
role play student/teacher interaction language	oral skills	presentation skills
more interaction in class	team teaching	micro teaching practice
how to improve autonomously	grammar, vocabulary	understanding different accents
how to say equations in English	how to write course content in English	discussion of teaching practices used in other countries
group dynamics	how to teach	teaching ideas exchange
how to stimulate interaction	learn about best practices	fluency



Next stages

