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| <b>Title</b> | <b>Participate in sustained discussions in an academic context (EL)</b> |                |           |
| <b>Level</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>Credits</b> | <b>10</b> |

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| <b>Purpose</b> | <p>This unit standard is for people for whom English is an additional language.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to participate in sustained discussions in an academic context (EL).</p> |
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| <b>Classification</b> | Languages > English Language |
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| <b>Available grade</b> | Achieved |
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| <b>Prerequisites</b> | Unit 31015, <i>Participate in a spoken interaction in an applied context (EL)</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills. |
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### Guidance Information

- 1 *English Language (EL)* refers to the acquisition of English as an additional language.
- 2 This unit standard is at a level comparable to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) mid B2. It is intended for learners with independence in English. A structured overview of all CEFR related scales can be found at <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portfolio/overview-of-cefr-related-scales>.
- 3 This unit standard may contribute to the New Zealand Certificate in English Language (Academic) (Level 4) [Ref: 1883]. The requirements of this standard are consistent with the *NZCEL Guiding Document*. This document includes guidelines relating to appropriate texts, task specifications and assessment conditions and can be found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz>.
- 4 All assessment activities must be conducted in English, which must not be the candidate's first language.
- 5 Two or more candidates may be assessed simultaneously, but each candidate must fulfil the requirements of the unit standard independently.
- 6 It is recommended that:
  - i the outcomes are assessed in authentic or simulated situations, relevant to the learning context of the candidate, as part of an integrated unit of work;
  - ii assessment be conducted in conjunction with assessment against other English Language unit standards at this level.

- 7 For the purposes of moderation, the assessment must be recorded audio-visually. If telephone conversations are used, there must be an audio and visual recording of both participants. Recorded work must not be edited. Guidelines for digital visual submissions can be found in *Preparing digital visual submissions for moderation*, accessed at: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz>.
- 8 Assessment support material for *English Language* unit standards can be found at [www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz).
- 9 Definitions
- Assertive strategies* refer to the ability to clearly express positive and negative ideas, feelings and needs in a way that respects the rights of others.
- Conventions (of spoken interactions)*, for the purposes of this standard, refer to verbal and non-verbal practices/strategies e.g. greeting, leave taking, eye contact; and behaviour appropriate to the context, such as negotiating, clarifying, confirming, asking for repetition, giving or responding to feedback.
- Developed (responses)* refer to expanding on statements by including supporting details.
- Fluent* refers to a smooth flow of language with few unnatural pauses.
- Inconsistencies* refer to variable control in language features, where the candidate can self-correct if necessary.
- Interactive strategies* refer to turn-taking, clarifying, confirming, asking for repetition, offering alternatives, giving or responding to feedback, summarising.
- Spontaneous (responses)* refers to responses that are natural and unrehearsed. It may include the candidate adjusting learnt language patterns to suit other participants' comments and responses.
- Sustained discussions* refer to discussions that are maintained for an extended time using turn-taking strategies.
- Turn-taking* refers to social conventions of ensuring all participants have the opportunity to contribute equally.

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## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Participate in sustained discussions in an academic context (EL).

Range topics may include but are not limited to – discussing or debating current affairs, solving a problem;  
must include a minimum of two people;  
minimum of two discussions each of eight minutes in duration.

### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Contributions to the discussion are organised, developed and relevant to the topic, purpose, participants and context.

- 1.2 Ideas are expressed confidently, clearly and politely with regard for relevant conventions and interactive strategies.

Range interactive strategies may include but are not limited to – question and answer, agreement and disagreement, assertive strategies clarification, confirming, asking for repetition, verbal and non-verbal feedback.

- 1.3 Spoken discussion shows good control of a range of appropriate language features to progress discussion. It may contain inconsistencies, but these seldom impede communication.

Range language features include – grammatical, lexical and phonological features relevant to content and context;  
grammatical features may include but are not limited to – appropriate sentence structures, tense, verb forms, modality, comparative and conditional forms;  
lexical features may include but are not limited to – word choice, grammatical form, collocations;  
phonological features include – pronunciation, intonation, stress, pace, audibility, rhythm.

- 1.4 Spoken discussion is spontaneous, fluent, and can be understood with minimal effort.

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| <b>Replacement information</b> | This unit standard replaced unit standard 28065. |
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| <b>Planned review date</b> | 31 December 2023 |
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#### Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

| Process      | Version | Date          | Last Date for Assessment |
|--------------|---------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Registration | 1       | 29 March 2018 | N/A                      |

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| <b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b> | 0226 |
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

#### Comments on this unit standard

Please contact NZQA National Qualifications Services [nqs@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:nqs@nzqa.govt.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.