

## Challenges Encountered by Saudi ESP Students at Taif University

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### ABSTRACT

*This research aims to find out the difficulties that Saudi students encounter in their English for Specific Purposes (ESP) course. For this reason, it analyses data gathered from 120 students in Applied Medical Sciences College at Taif University through the use of a questionnaire. The results of the study revealed that the materials used in the ESP classroom do not address the needs of the learners fully resulting in their being unsuccessful in performing their occupational roles in medical sciences. Due to overreliance on the prescribed ESP materials, the teachers do not bring other relevant material and the methodology followed in the language textbooks and preferred by teachers is the Grammar Translation Method (GTM). However, a few activities involved the formation of groups to increase learners' engagement in learning and classroom interaction. The results also showed that the productive skills were less practiced and teachers did not give feedback to the students due to the class size. The study recommends that the ESP courses need to be redesigned with a major focus on ESP needs of the learners integrated with modern teaching practices.*

**Keywords:** ESP, language skills, GTM, course, strategies, challenges

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Today English is the language of education, science, politics, assemblies, judiciary, and all other domains of power in most of