

Prepositions in academic English

about/concerning

data about
issues about
legislation about
policy about
theory about
comments about
conference about
research about
a debate about
statistics about
a lecture about
a thesis about
to worry about

as

to identify s.o./sth as –ing
to perceive sth as
to emerge as
its status as
to conceive of sth as

at

to estimate sth at
at the x level
at a university
at the end of the semester
at fault

between

a distinction between
an interaction between
a partnership between
a contrast between
a differentiation between
a comparison between

by

allocation by
offset by
followed by
preceded by

for

available for
a contract for
appropriate for
strategies for
compensation for
criteria for

a justification for
adequate for
to have implications for
a mechanism for –ing
an option for s.o.
for a year (eg statistics for 2004)
a capacity for sth
a challenge for s.o.
an incentive for –ing
scope for
to prepare s.o. for
to be suitable for
a problem for s.o.
problematic for s.o.
imperative for s.o. to do sth
a tendency for s.o. to do sth
difficult for s.o. to do sth
a need for
to prepare for

from

derived from
excluded from
removed from
a deviation from
to discourage s.o. from doing sth

in

to be involved in
to occur in
to conduct research in
to have a role in doing sth
significant in
an investment in
participation in
resident in
a shift in
an error in
. . . in scope
in a topic
in conformity with
in . . . format
inherent in
a revolution in
in . . . sphere
intrinsic in
persistent in -ing
to invest in
to engage in
current issues in

in a . . . manner
in . . . region
to have experience in
to have training in sth
to participate in
to have instruction in
to fill in
in the area of
in the first semester
in a university department
proficiency in sth
the problem lies in –ing
in . . . font
improvement in

into

to conduct research into
integration into
investigation into

of

an analysis of sth/to analyse sth
a definition of sth/to define sth
issues of
a source of
a theory of
a survey of
constraints of
an instance of
the status of
an objective of
capable of –ing
an incidence of
the scope of
an extract of
a guarantee of
on behalf of
(in) violation of
a vision of
conceive of sth (as)
a fear of sth
of interest to
of relevance to
an awareness of
to be unaware of
the importance of
evidence of
an implication of
to make use of
an indication of

Prepositions in academic English

a limitation of
indicative of sth/to indicate sth

on

to major on
to do research on
(to) focus on
(to) impact on
(to) comment on
an emphasis on sth/to emphasise sth
a reliance on
a concentration on
imposed on
to put/lay stress on sth/to stress sth
a perspective on
a lecture on
a thesis on
a levy on
on average
to have an effect on sth/to affect sth
on a . . . basis
to rely on
on behalf of
on the part of
a questionnaire on
to answer questions on
information on

to

an approach to
significant to
similar to
specific to
appropriate to (do) sth
to be relevant to
to be restricted to
to transfer to
an alternative to
to consent to
a contribution to
corresponding to
a reaction to
to have access to
to be apparent to s.o.
an attitude to/towards
a commitment to
obvious to
prior to
subsequent to
an amendment to sth/to amend sth

an adjustment to sth/to adjust sth
a challenge to s.o./to challenge s.o.
equivalent to
exposure to
external to sth
fundamental to
allocate sth to
analogous to
confined to
devoted to
inherent to
subordinate to
supplementary to
adjacent to
intrinsic to
reluctant to
importance to
proportionate to
known/unknown to
resistant to
due to

with

to be consistent with
interaction with
partnership with
in conformity with
to coincide with
(in)compatible with
concurrent with
to provide s.o. with sth
compared with
associated with

These words are mostly taken from
Coxhead, A, *The academic word list*,
[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/
academicwordlist/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/)

The list of prepositions is also included in
a study guide written by Julia Miller when
she worked in the Student Learning
Centre at Flinders University.