

Initiatives in English language development for international students

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DEEWR has released Good Practice Principles for English Language Proficiency for International Students in Australian Universities (<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Publications/Pages/Publications.aspx>).

The Principles were developed in 2008 by a Steering Committee that consulted extensively with universities and other stakeholders. They are being used as an external reference point for AUQA quality audits of self-accrediting institutions. While the brief was to focus specifically on international students in universities, the Principles are more widely applicable for tertiary institutions whose students include those with English as an additional language.

The challenge for those working in tertiary education is now to operationalise the Principles, especially those relating to the overall approach and entry requirements, embedded language development within curricula, and fostering social interaction.

In this interactive workshop, we will explore the implications of these Principles, not only for universities but also for other tertiary education providers, and discuss examples of good practice. After a report from the facilitator on emergent good practices identified by the Steering Committee through the consultation process, workshop participants will be asked to:

- critically consider two brief case studies to suggest ways in which good practices can be implemented
- showcase other examples of good practices and innovations
- discuss how the Principles are being used in their institutions and who has or might have responsibility for ensuring their implementation.

The aim will be to collectively capture better ways of supporting students to develop their English language skills in academic contexts. We will also identify recommendations to take forward and some particular issues, including the operation of the Principles for students at university colleges or partner sites.

This workshop is expected to complement other presentations at the ISANA conference on topics such as enhanced interaction within campuses.