

Enhancing the student experience: Approaches to the development of English language proficiency

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This workshop will draw on the findings from a project funded by the Office for Learning and Teaching (formerly the ALTC) entitled *Degrees of Proficiency: Building a strategic approach to university students' English language assessment and development*. The project was an inter-university investigation into institution-wide approaches to post-entry English language assessment and language development in the university sector and was conducted by researchers in four universities: Curtin, RMIT, the University of Sydney and Swinburne.

The project involves three stages. In the first stage, the team mapped and analysed current institutional approaches to the development of student English language proficiency using data obtained from nationally distributed surveys and follow up interviews. In the second stage, the team explored the reasons why universities had taken their particular approach to language development, and examined the factors that promoted or inhibited the success of a given strategy, as measured by evaluation processes. In the final stage of the project, the team is developing a good practice framework and interactive website for universities seeking to implement approaches and strategies for student language development that have been found to be effective.

The workshop will identify the key findings and present the first iteration of the interactive website. Participants will be invited to provide input and share their views on the website format and content. The outcomes from the workshop will help inform the final version of the website. The workshop is intended for all staff involved in student language development, including policy makers and academic language and learning advisors.

Key Words

English language proficiency, academic language and learning