Professional Issues Meeting Leeds 2014

The challenges of providing an
In-sessional EAP module for international students from the Art Design and Media Faculty

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Background

* Senior Lecturer Languages (EAP) University of Sunderland – 2009
* Responsible for the In-sessional and Pre-sessional support
* Aim for In-sessional to make it more relevant for students by making the provision more subject specific
* Including adapting the tasks to the requirement of the students main programmes as much as possible
* Traditional road blocks were getting the faculties involved in supporting the initiative and resourcing

Background

* In 2010 Faculty of Art Design and Media directive to improve student experience for international students

* I was asked to meet with the Associate Dean for Student Experience to discuss the possibility of an English Language support module specifically for the faculty to support international students

* The plan was to use an existing EAP module code and structure

In the Beginning

* Granted permission to pilot an EAP module for ADM international students

* The next issue was which existing EAP module to use as a base - students are allocated to modules according to their levels of English

* A mid level module was chosen for the pilot

* The next step was how to get students signed up? How to make them aware of the module?

Challenges

* Teachers?

* Where to teach it and when? The design centre and the Media centre are on different campuses, timetabling issues

* Registration – in class in the first instance.

* 2010/11 The first year low student numbers but successful

* Material development was a challenge – a limited amount of communication from main programme tutors

Challenges

* 2011/12 Large groups initially – high drop out rate due to timetable clashes, inappropriate teaching rooms

* 2012/13 The module was included on to the ADM international students timetables in a bid to attract students. As a result there were too many students for the one module that was running

* The class did run however with a good number of students and a good completion and pass rate

* 2013/14 – cancelled due to low student numbers

Current Status

* 2013/14 – A separate registration was organised to allow students from ADM who were genuinely interested in the support to sign up. No students attended. Reasons?

* Eventually the module was cancelled this year due to low student numbers

* 2014/15 I am planning to run the module again with more co-operation hopefully from the faculty-registration/publication/co-operation (tutors)

Conclusion - Successes

* A step in the right direction towards ESAP and more relevant In-sessional support for international students

* Learning about what doesn't work

* Greater interest in EAP support from other faculties has been generated FAS

* Cancelling the class has meant that there will have to be more support from ADM for any future provision

Any questions ?

*I'd welcome any suggestions or advice that people may have about how to make this kind of provision a success?