

3:50pm - 4:30pm

Block Y, Room Y301

Presentation Title: English in the Discipline: Meeting Diverse Needs in Large Faculties

Presenter / Co-presenters: Dr Elaine MARTYN, The University of Hong Kong
Dr Ken LAU, The University of Hong Kong
Dr Joanna LEE, The University of Hong Kong
Dr Lillian WONG, The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

The English enhancement courses offered since the last curriculum change at the University of Hong Kong have been a mix of general EAP and ESP programs with EAP courses offered to first year students on entering the university. In 2012, as well as a general EAP course in the first year, the 4-year curriculum will provide what is called "English in the Discipline" courses for second year students: these courses are being developed in collaboration with Faculty.

This presentation focuses on the particular challenges of designing discipline-specific English language curricula in three large faculties: Arts, Engineering, and Social Sciences. Challenges will be identified and faculty-specific responses will be discussed for each of the three faculties in terms of negotiations with faculty, course design, and implementation. Some of the key issues to be considered include: needs and expectations of faculty teachers and students, demands on English Language teachers, and logistical constraints and opportunities. In each faculty these issues have been resolved in different ways resulting in three rather different models of English in the Discipline.

Biodata

Elaine Martyn coordinates and teaches postgraduate English courses for the Graduate School and has developed a number of EAP/ESP and teacher education courses. She also teaches on the MA in Applied Linguistics. Her research interests include academic writing, eportfolios, and experiential learning.

Ken Lau coordinates undergraduate English courses for the Faculty of Engineering and in-house staff seminars. His research interests include identities and roles in writing, functional grammar and genre acquisition.

Joanna Lee is the deputy co-ordinator of English enhancement courses for the Faculty of Social Sciences. Her research interests include materials development for EAP/ESP courses, ESL/EFL teaching methods, and language and gender.

Lillian Wong coordinates undergraduate English courses for the Faculty of Arts and has developed a number of teacher education programmes. She also teaches on the MA in Applied Linguistics and various English courses for the Graduate School. Her research interests include IT in ELT, teacher professional development and language education.