

**11:45am - 12:25pm**

Block Y, Room Y302

**Presentation Title:** How ESP can we get in the new curriculum?

**Presenter / Co-presenters:** Ms Lai Kun TSE, The University of Hong Kong  
Ms Dora PAO, The University of Hong Kong  
Dr Wai Lan TSANG, The University of Hong Kong

### **Abstract**

In the ESP literature, one widely-recognised challenge has been the scope and scale of collaboration between language and discipline educators. HKU is envisaging extensive and intensive collaboration between these educators in its new English language provision, departing from the Faculty-based English Enhancement rationale to adopt an English-in-the-Discipline approach. This re-orientation encourages and expects joint involvement of language and discipline specialists in revamping English courses at the levels of syllabus design, materials development, course delivery and assessment.

We discuss in this paper how the University's language goals and guidelines have created space for further development of ESP courses for Chinese Medicine, Medicine, Nursing Studies and Pharmacy. How ESP we can get, however, is a challenge to address. We analyse issues arising from the new opportunities, and explore and evaluate solutions to the collaboration challenges we have identified, which include disparities in perceptions of language in the discipline, integrated use of expertise, and the role of the language specialist as an agent of change. The paper concludes that HKU's language curriculum reform has the potential to facilitate the attainment of higher ESP goals, provided that the new challenges can be met.

### **Biodata**

Lai Kun Tse has been teaching English for academic and profession communication courses to students of various disciplines, including medicine and dentistry. She has also developed and co-developed a number of course webs and online resources. Her current research interests focus on English for specific purposes (particularly English for medicine), clinical writing, student discourse and student learning.

Dora Pao is a Language Instructor at the Centre for Applied English Studies at the University of Hong Kong. She teaches academic and professional communication courses and coordinates English courses for the School of Nursing at HKU. Her interests include professional and academic writing, grammar, and communication in the Health Sciences.

Wai Lan Tsang is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Applied English Studies at HKU. Her main research and teaching interests include syntax and morphology in second or third language acquisition, and ESP in the medical discipline.