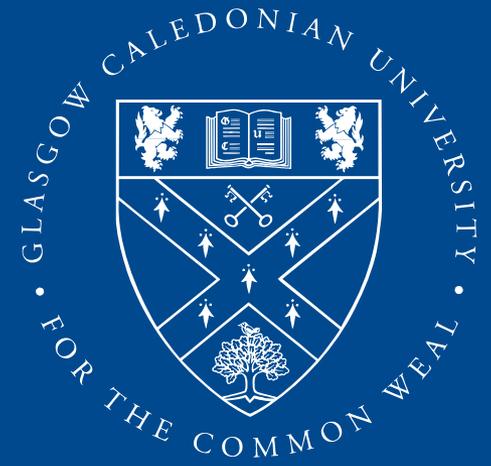


Kim Williams, Frances MacInnes and Calum Nielsen (SHLS)

# HEEAPs of Support @GCU Higher Education, English for Academic Purposes



# The Project Team

## Project Lead(s)



Kim Williams, SHLS and Deborah O'Neil, SHLS

## Project Team Members



Calum Nielsen,  
SHLS



Jessica Hancock,  
GCU London



Frances MacInnes  
SHLS



Psychology  
SHLS

## Associate Dean

Nichola McLarnon,  
SHLS

## Student Partners

ERASMUS Students  
SHLS

INTO Students (GCU  
and GCU London)

MSc BIO Suite  
(international  
students)  
SHLS

## Whole University Links

Learning  
Development Centre  
GSBS

Learning  
Development Centre  
SEBE

# Aims/goals of the project

- Identifying the **L&T challenges** of international students and understanding **their support needs**
- Exploring the **experience** of a range of **International students**:
  - School of Health and Life Sciences (SHLS)
  - INTO
  - ERASMUS
  - GCU London
- **Developing resources** with regard to **English for Academic Purposes** (EAP)
- Highlighting current initiatives and resources via a **bespoke marketing campaign** and promoting **increased student engagement**

# Interim Outcomes/Findings

- ✓ International Students **missing out** on critical pre-sessional transition events eg LDC '**Bootcamp**'
- ✓ Develop a process assisting students to recognise their **EAP strengths and weaknesses**
- ✓ Further support on **reading strategies** and **technical writing skills** (i.e. punctuation, grammar etc.) is required.
- ✓ **Videos** (with English subtitles provided) and **interactive resources** are useful
- ✓ Greater **awareness of current services** and what learning development is required for the student body within programmes across the school
- ✓ **Smoother transition** for students between **INTO and GCU LDCs** would be desirable, with greater communication and **stronger links** formed between the two.

## Activities: Evaluation

Focus groups were undertaken with:

- ✓ X 3 groups of INTO students who intend to progress into SHLS courses.
- ✓ X 2 groups of GCU London students
- ✓ X 1 group of current GCU Erasmus students

A semi-structured interview was also undertaken with a current GCU Postgraduate International student from studying within the Life Sciences.

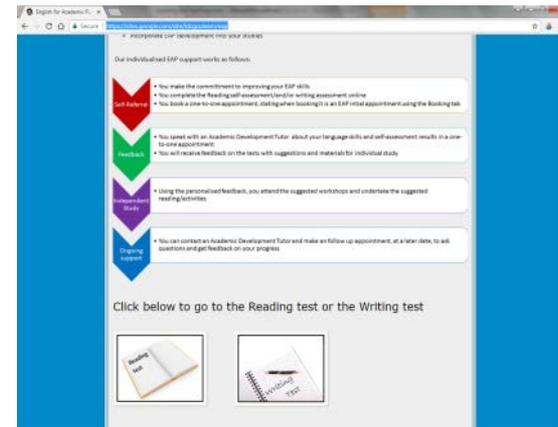


# Activities: Activities Based on Initial Findings

The EAP section of Learning Development Centre website is now live.

Accessible to all SHLS students, in this section, are two diagnostic assessments: Reading and Writing skills.

<https://sites.google.com/site/ldcgculearn/eap>

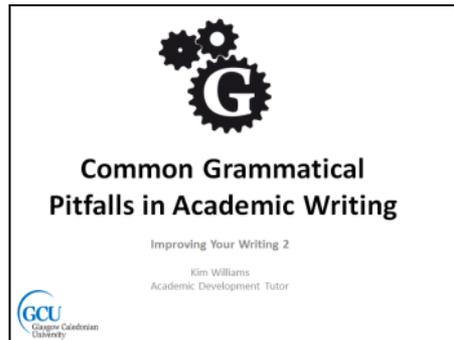
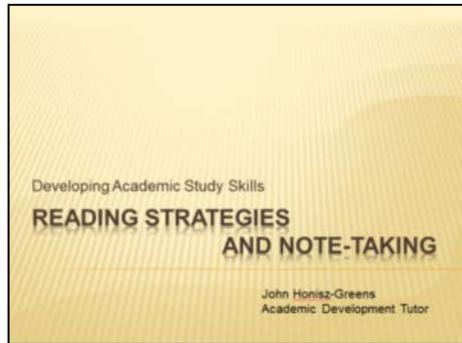


The EAP section also contains full details of next steps for students once the tests are complete.



# Activities: Activities Based on Initial Findings

x 3 workshops have been developed and delivered in Trimester A to promote EAP skills across the school.



**Learning Development Centre**  
**School of Health & Life Sciences**  
 Academic Development Workshops – Trimester A, 2017/2018

Please make sure that you book in advance using the link below to ensure you get a place.

Day	Time	Topic	Contents
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	1-2	Note-taking and reading at University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using appropriate reading strategies</li> <li>Identifying main and supporting ideas in a text</li> <li>Using note-making systems, symbols and abbreviations</li> </ul>
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1-2	How to write at university	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic writing conventions</li> <li>The essay writing process</li> </ul>
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1-2		
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1-2	How to structure written work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structuring written work</li> <li>Constructing paragraphs</li> <li>Common mistakes</li> </ul>
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1-2		
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1-2	How to reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When and why you should reference</li> <li>Avoiding plagiarism</li> </ul>
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1-2		
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	1-2	Improving your writing 1: grammar, sentence structure and punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring accuracy in sentence structure and punctuation</li> </ul>
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	1-2	Improving your writing 2: common grammatical pitfalls in academic writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common grammatical confusions</li> </ul>
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	1-2	How to write reflectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why reflection?</li> <li>Models of reflection</li> <li>Reflective assessments</li> </ul>
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	1-2		
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	1-2	How to be critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defining critical thinking</li> <li>Critical reading</li> <li>Critical writing (essays and case studies)</li> </ul>
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	1-2		
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	1-2	Exams preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study techniques</li> <li>What to do during your exams</li> </ul>

# Activities: Activities Based on Initial Findings

Bespoke EAP Online Learning Objects have been developed and are now live on the LDC website.

<https://sites.google.com/site/ldcgculearn/academic-skills/writing/grammar>



# Activities: Whole School/University Dissemination and Marketing

A short video has been produced to market the EAP resources and services currently available to International Students.

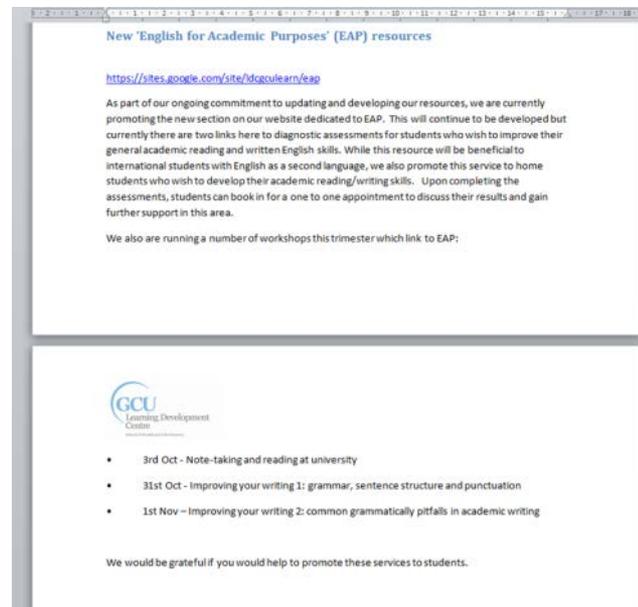
<https://youtu.be/F3Qqj8mrYh0>



This video is aimed at International students who are unable to attend the whole-school LDC pre-session bootcamp to make them aware of the support available to them prior to commencement of their course.

# Activities: Whole School/University Dissemination and Marketing

Information about the new EAP services and resources has been disseminated across the school via Programme Boards.



Information has been included in all LDC Programme Board Reports and discussed at Programme Boards in detail where appropriate.

# Activities: Whole School/University Dissemination and Marketing

- ✓ Kim Williams, Project Lead, regularly attends meetings with Sharron Blumenthal (Associate Dean, International) to discuss impact of the project and EAP developments on a whole school level.
- ✓ The project team have established a regular link with the on-going whole-school International students Listening Events to gain a broad spread of information about International students' needs across the school.
- ✓ Kim Williams and Calum Nielsen have established links with Charlotte Craig, INTO, Academic Director. The meetings have led to sharing of resources and an arranged induction in February 2018 for INTO students intending to progress in SHLS courses in order to ensure a smoother transition for students and raise awareness of the LDC/EAP service.

## Next Steps



- ✓ Follow-up focus groups with previous INTO students (Apr/May 2018).
- ✓ Links with Sharron Blumenthal, Charlotte Craig (INTO), International Students' Listening Events and LDCs will continue to be strengthened.
- ✓ INTO SHLS Student Induction to the LDC scheduled for Feb 28th.
- ✓ Team will continue to develop EAP section of website and workshop programme with any developments based on continual feedback

## Next Steps

- ✓ On-going evaluation of pre-sessional resources and information for international students.
- ✓ Marketing materials updated to feature details of EAP provision plus other marketing strategies considered to promote the support.
- ✓ Team will evaluate current reading material/software for potential purchase for student use.
- ✓ Team will explore need for (and source) any additional staff training in the provision of EAP.



# Dissemination/Research Outputs

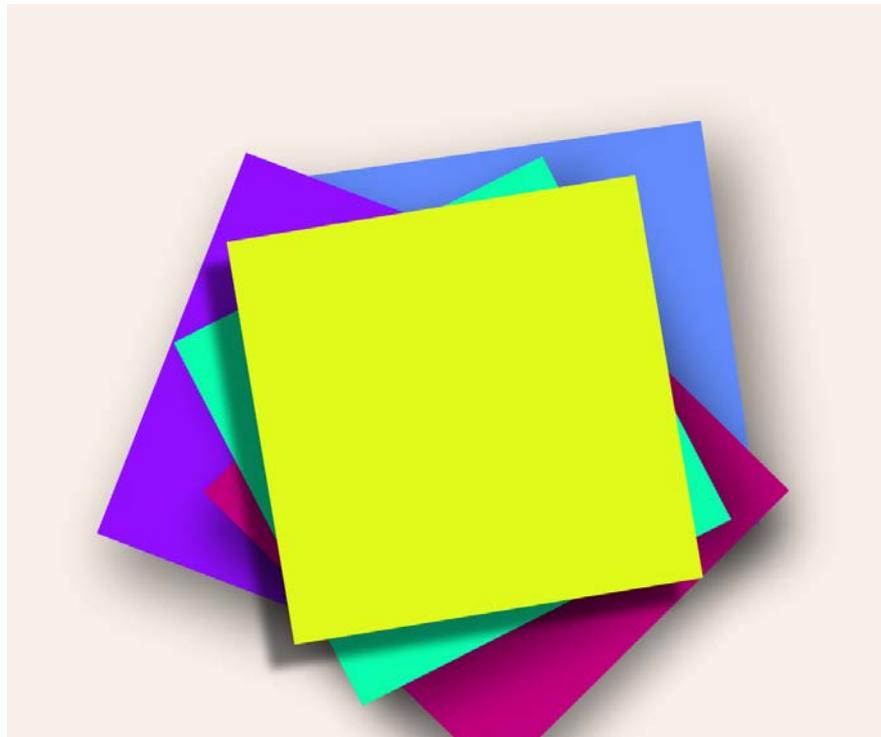
The project's findings will be dissemination via:

- ✓ the GCU Learning and Teaching Event, January 24th, 2018
- ✓ ALDinHE 2018 Conference, University of Leicester, 26th- 28th March, 2018 (paper submitted - awaiting confirmation).



## Interactive element

Please note down any feedback or EAP experience you have had on post-its provided and stick to board for inclusion in the project review process



Thank you.

Any questions?