

Developing Skills

New ways of working at Academic Skills

Academic Skills is a central service that develops students' academic literacy and English language skills.

Context

- Rising number of students but fixed number of staff (FTE cap)
- Limited reach of workshops and individual consultations (2016: 5,347 individual tutorials and drop-in sessions with 2,965 unique students = less than 5% of student population)
- Services sometimes perceived as remedial

2016 and prior

- Large number of individual sessions
- "Generic" workshops on academic skills and English language to all students
- Tailored workshops as requested
- Some adjunct language tutorials
- Aging interactive online resources (*AIRport* and *CourseWorks*)

Embedding has been identified as best practise in communication and academic skills development.¹

It increases scale without additional resources.

It can shift perception from a deficit model to a strength based approach.

2017 and beyond



- **Academic Skills Hub on the LMS (interactive resources) & videos**



- **Embedded skills development (targeted resources, tutor training, workshops, assessment review, classroom activity design)**



- **More group sessions**
- **Longer drop-in hours**



- **Less booked individual consultations**



<http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/News/Photos/igphoto/2000054986/>

¹ Arkoudis, Sophie; Baik, Chi; Bexley, Emmaline; Doughney, Lachlan: English Language Proficiency and Employability Framework: For Australian higher education institutions. Centre for the Study of Higher Education The University of Melbourne, 2014. URL: http://melbourne-cshe.unimelb.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1489157/ELP_Employability_Framework.pdf Retrieved: 28/05/2017

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