

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE: ways of practising for teachers



Averil Bolster & Peter Levrai

BALEAP PIM: EAP for a more Sustainable World

3rd March 2023

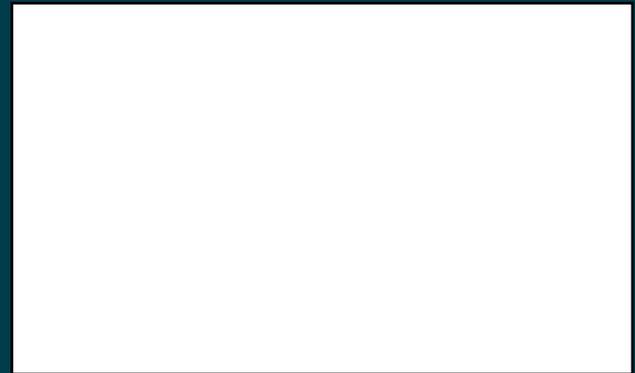
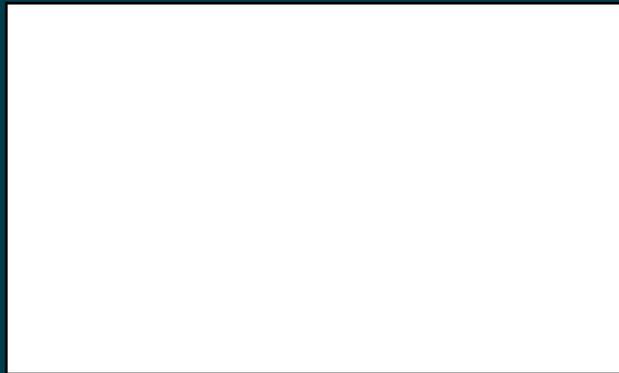
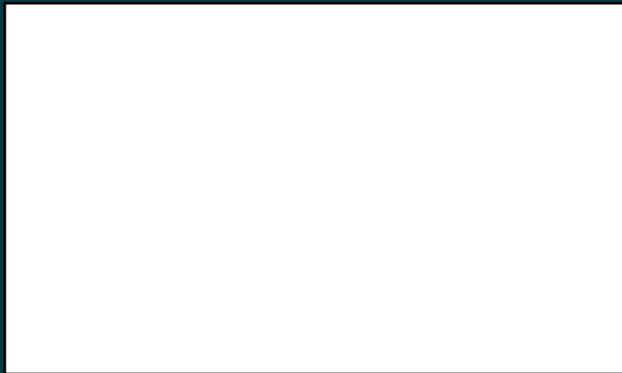
Ways of practising: for teachers

- The call for papers for this PIM asked us to consider how we can promote ways of thinking, practising and being for students.
- This talk is a reflection on our own ways of thinking, practising and being as teachers.



A failed thought experiment

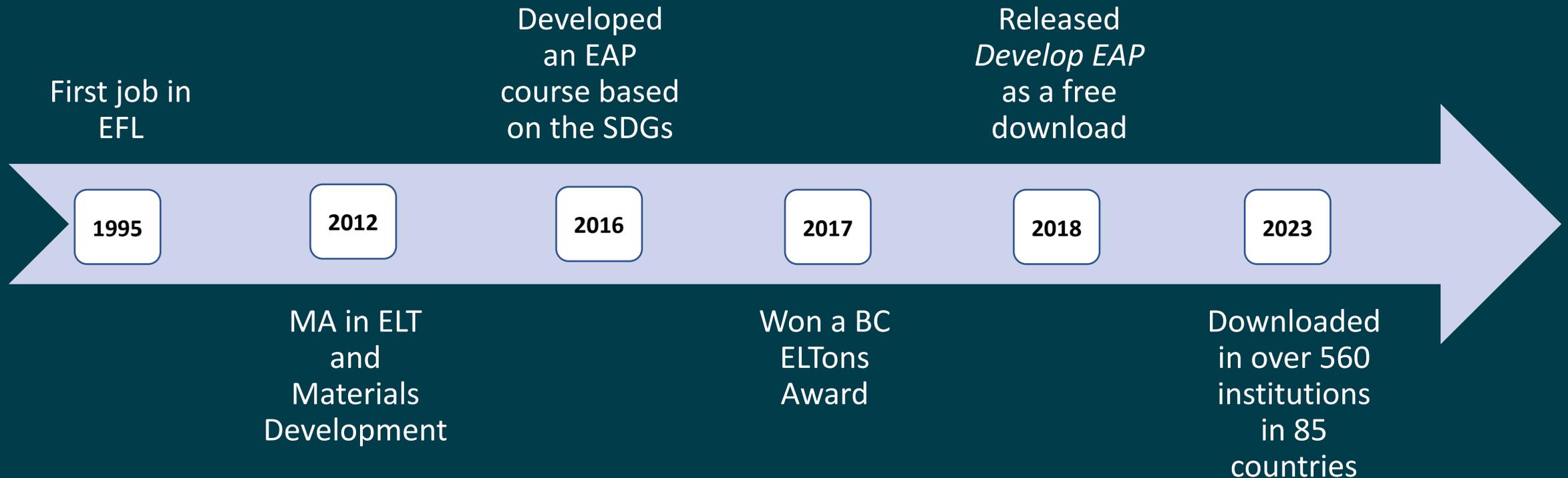
- We wanted to ask some questions we realised we couldn't answer ourselves.



- We've produced a lot of materials, lost to time.

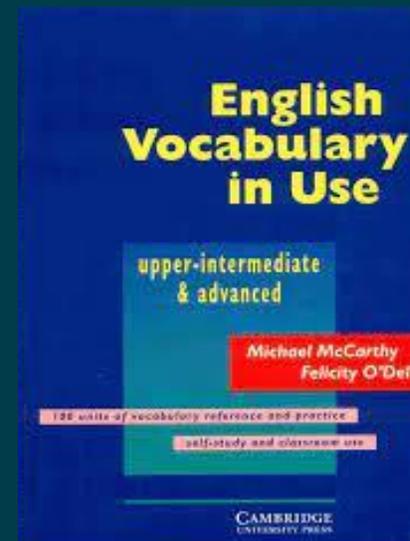
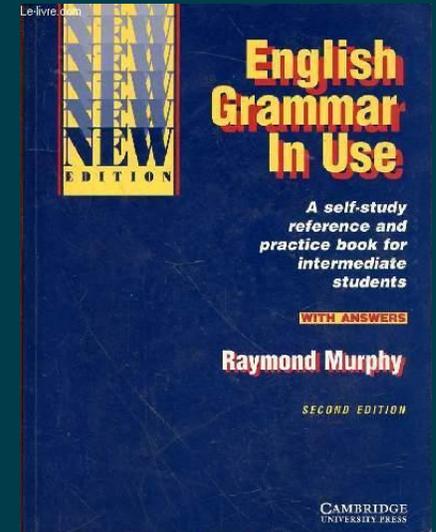
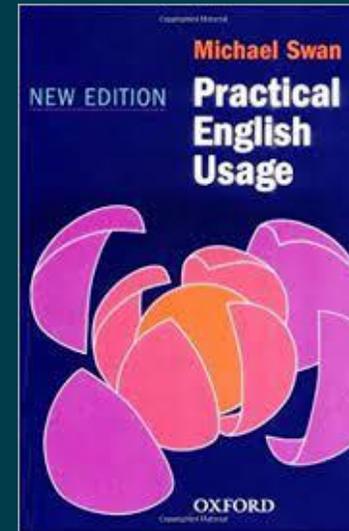
Today's Talk: A journey through time

- This talk is inspired by *“The journey of Develop EAP: from a single step to a more sustainable and shared practice”* (Bolster, in press).



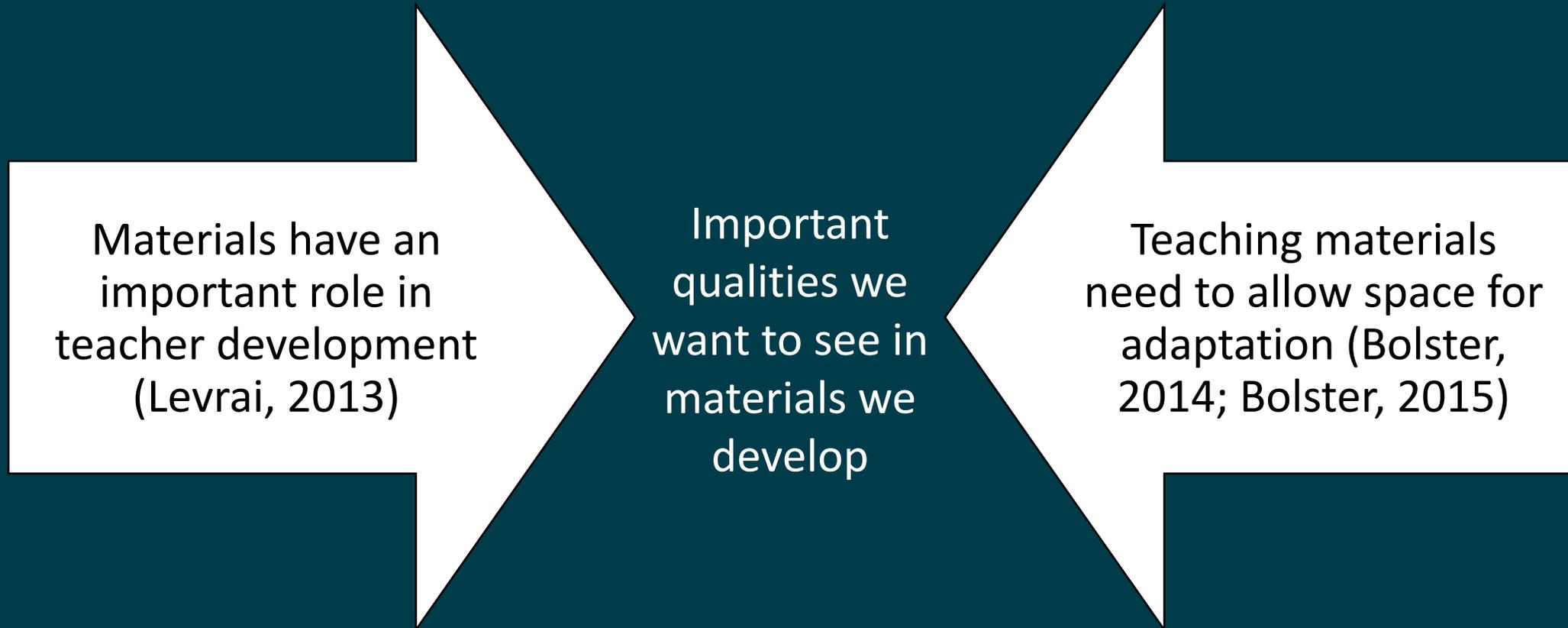
1995: First steps

- First job teaching overseas.
- Language school full of new teachers.
- We needed each other (and the then classics) to survive.
- Sharing became second nature.



2012: Exploring a passion

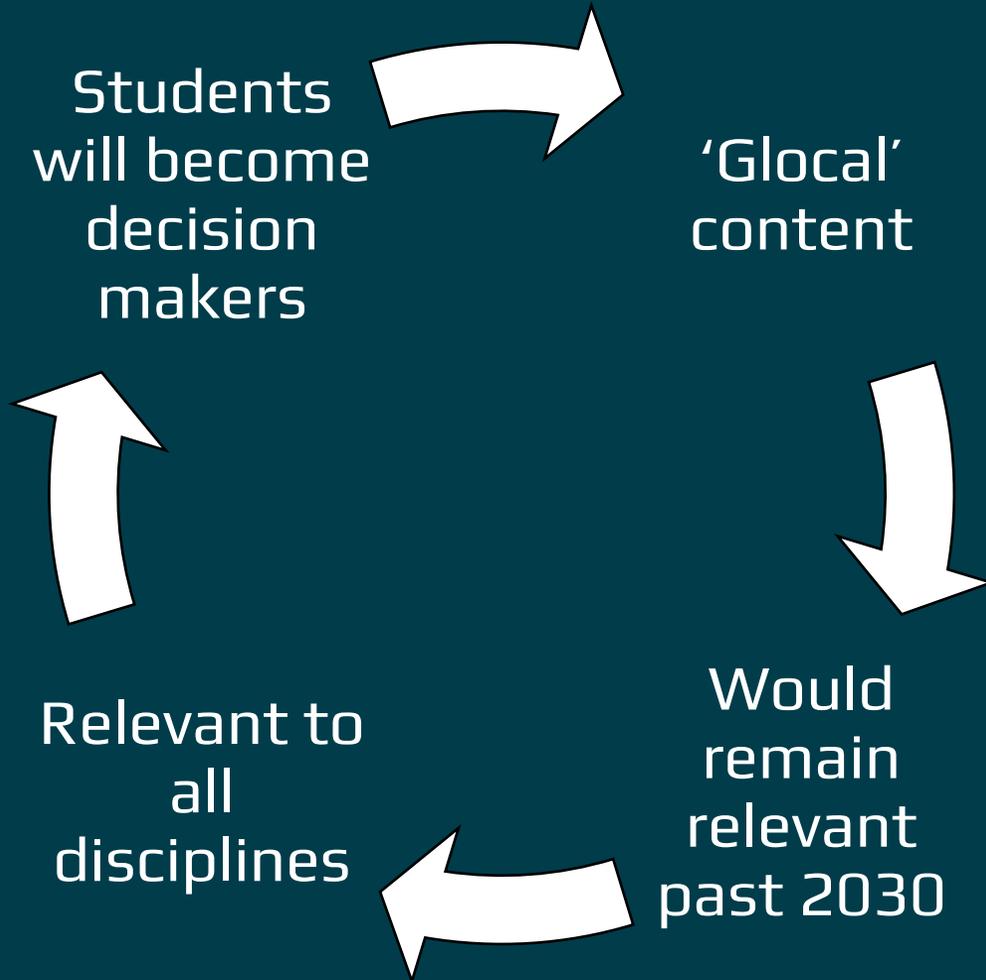
- MA in ELT and Material Development had a profound effect.



2016: Inspiration for *Develop EAP*

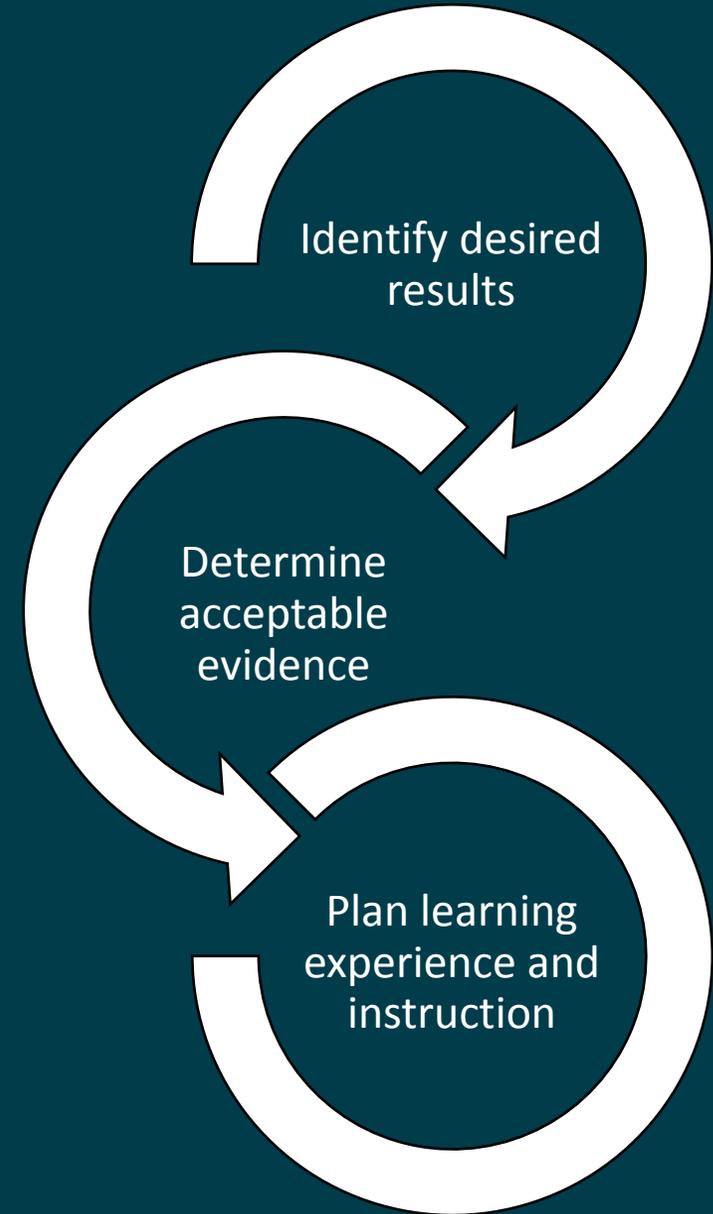
- Tasked with developing an EAP course in University of Macau with a cohort of 1,000+ students annually.
- Needed content that would be suitable across disciplines.
- Selected the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to prior interest in the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).
- This course gave us the foundation for *Develop EAP*.

2016: Why the SDGs?



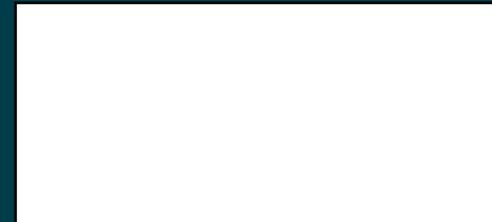
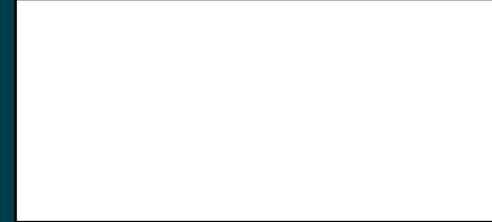
2016: Designing flexibility

- Followed 'backward design'.
- Aimed for a course that scaffolded students so inputs could change but course could remain stable (Bolster & Levrai, 2017a; Bolster & Levrai 2017b).
- Didn't want single use materials.
- Directed students to great resources already available through QR codes.



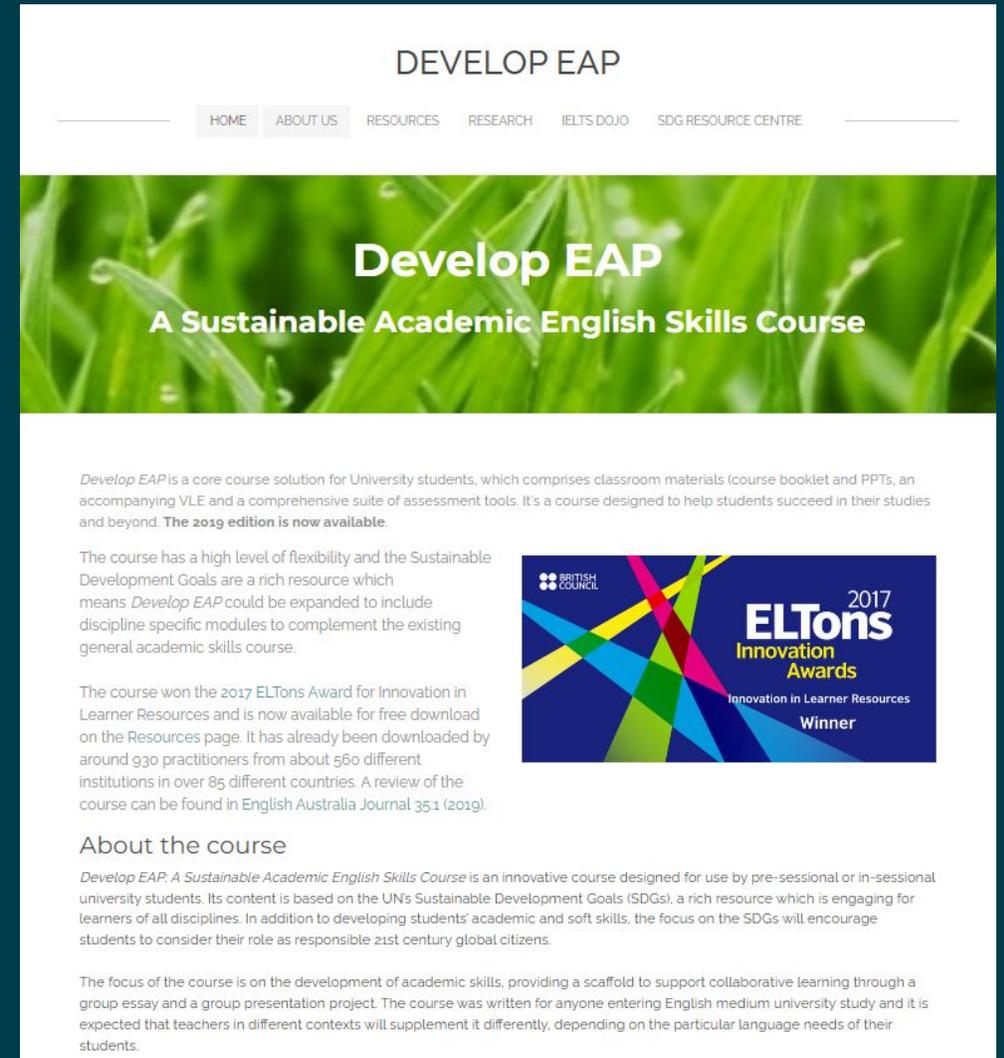
2017: Success, but then what?

- Won the British Council ELTons Award for Innovation in Learner Resources.
- Considered pursuing commercial publication.
- Felt too many elements we valued in the course may have to be compromised.



2018: Sharing what we had

- We wanted the course used and the more teachers who could have access, the more students could benefit.
- Created the *Develop EAP* website and released the course for free download under a Creative Commons license.
- Notified peers through BALEAP and EATAW mailing lists.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Develop EAP' website. At the top, the title 'DEVELOP EAP' is centered. Below it is a navigation menu with links for 'HOME', 'ABOUT US', 'RESOURCES', 'RESEARCH', 'IELTS DOJO', and 'SDG RESOURCE CENTRE'. The main header features a green background with the text 'Develop EAP' and 'A Sustainable Academic English Skills Course'. The body of the page contains several paragraphs of text describing the course, its flexibility, and its recognition. A prominent award logo for the '2017 ELTons Innovation Awards' is displayed, specifically for 'Innovation in Learner Resources Winner'. The text mentions that the course is available for free download and has been used by practitioners in over 85 different countries.

DEVELOP EAP

HOME ABOUT US RESOURCES RESEARCH IELTS DOJO SDG RESOURCE CENTRE

Develop EAP

A Sustainable Academic English Skills Course

Develop EAP is a core course solution for University students, which comprises classroom materials (course booklet and PPTs, an accompanying VLE and a comprehensive suite of assessment tools. It's a course designed to help students succeed in their studies and beyond. **The 2019 edition is now available.**

The course has a high level of flexibility and the Sustainable Development Goals are a rich resource which means *Develop EAP* could be expanded to include discipline specific modules to complement the existing general academic skills course.

The course won the 2017 ELTons Award for Innovation in Learner Resources and is now available for free download on the Resources page. It has already been downloaded by around 930 practitioners from about 560 different institutions in over 85 different countries. A review of the course can be found in *English Australia Journal* 35.1 (2019).



About the course

Develop EAP: A Sustainable Academic English Skills Course is an innovative course designed for use by pre-sessional or in-sessional university students. Its content is based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a rich resource which is engaging for learners of all disciplines. In addition to developing students' academic and soft skills, the focus on the SDGs will encourage students to consider their role as responsible 21st century global citizens.

The focus of the course is on the development of academic skills, providing a scaffold to support collaborative learning through a group essay and a group presentation project. The course was written for anyone entering English medium university study and it is expected that teachers in different contexts will supplement it differently, depending on the particular language needs of their students.

Feedback and Unexpected Use

Feedback

- Great to have access to quality materials for free.
- Useful resource to navigate the pandemic pivot.
- Teachers' book please!

Unexpected use

- Kiribati Teachers College
- Social sciences course in Japan
- Foundation of EAP provision in a Turkish University
- RefugEAP (University of Leicester, n.d.)

Conclusion

- Quality teaching materials and resources are developed in institutions around the world every day.
- Our teaching community would be richer if those resources were more widely and openly available.
- By sharing materials, we can achieve a fairer future for EAP practitioners everywhere.

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Questions or Comments?

averil.bolster@utu.fi

peter.levrai@utu.fi

developeap@weebly.com

Design to say “No” to

single-use

single-purpose

single-semester

single-teacher

single-class

single-cohort

single-institution

materials & resources

