

LEAP INTO THE UNKNOWN

COLLABORATION BETWEEN
EAP AND WIDENING
PARTICIPATION

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OUTLINE

- CONTEXTS & RATIONALE FOR THE COLLABORATION
- WHAT WE'VE DONE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS
- CHALLENGES FACED & ACTIONS TAKEN
- LEARNING SO FAR...
- THANKS



EAP AND WP CONTEXTS

AT

THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW



ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC STUDY (EAS)

- SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES (SMLC)
- PRE-SESSIONAL/IN-SESSIONAL + TESOL (22 TLS STAFF)
- EAS SANCTUARY PROGRAMME (10 FEE WAIVERS PS + TRAVEL/CATERING/STATIONARY COSTS)

UNIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY AWARD 2022



WIDENING PARTICIPATION (WP)

PRIMARY - SECONDARY - TOP UP, SUMMER SCHOOLS & ACCESS PROGRAMMES + SCHOLARSHIPS (20)

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

ONLINE + 2 X 20 CREDITS/SUBJECTS (SCQF 7)

NO QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

5-7 HRS/WEEK CLASS TIME

6-8 HRS INDEPENDENT STUDY

25 FEE WAIVERS FOR ASYLUM-SEEKING STUDENTS (10%)



RATIONALE FOR THE COLLABORATION

ACCESS TO HE COORDINATOR:
AMY MCDERMOTT

SUMMER 2022: 6 STUDENTS; 5-WEEK, SUBJECT SPECIFIC ONLINE PS

MIXED RESULTS...

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF 2022

POSITIVES

- IMROVEMENT IN ACADEMIC SKILLS
- GREATER AWARENESS OF UNIVERSITY PROCESSES & SYSTEMS
- SENSE OF COMMUNITY
- SENSE OF BELONGING & INSPIRATIONAL

AMY'S FEEDBACK POSITIVE TOO...

CHALLENGES

- PACE, INTENSITY, ASSUMED PRIOR KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS, ACCESS TO DEVICES = STRESS & ANXIETY...
- WP INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF PS
- EAP LEAD INSUFFICIENT LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT = EXTRA WORKLOAD AND EMOTIONAL CHALLENGE
- EAS LEAD LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ACCESS TO HE PROGRAMME
- EAS LEAD INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF SANCTUARY STUDENTS' NEEDS



RESPONSE

Academic:

- Sanctuary co-lead: Sofia
- May not July PS (target grade 6)
- Full cohort & taught by Iwona and Sofia

Professional:

- RefugEAP Working Group; Sanctuary jiscmail
- Additional learning: e.g., trauma-inforrmed pedagogy, sanctuary provisions in EAP literature (e.g., Palanac, 2020; Palanac et al., 2023)

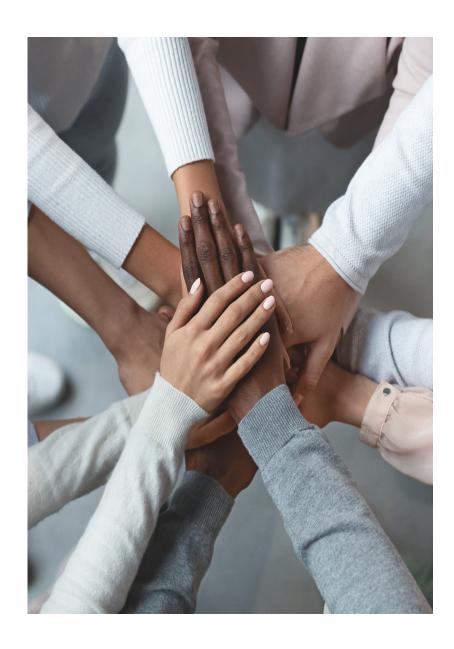
Operational:

- Sanctuary co-lead: Sofia
- Regular meetings with WP Coordinator
- Dedicated administrative staff



2023 ITERATION

- 21 asylum-seeking students admitted to May PS
- 16 achieved their required grades + 4 via extension course =
 20 progressed to Access in Sept 2023
- > Access students' groups fully incorporated into the May PS
- No or minimal impact on PS teachers/seminar leaders/convenors
- Joint induction and the WP Co-ordinator's support throughout the 4- week course
- > First-hand knowledge of the cohort's complex needs
- Costs absorbed by SMLC: fees (£1800 x21) + teaching and shared admin
- > Costs absorbed by WP: travel/catering (4 wks x 21) + shared admin
- University central support: laptop loan



2023 CHALLENGES

Students:

- Full-time schedule and intense pace of PS
- Absenteeism: caring responsibilities, home office visits, appts with lawyers,
- Access to devices, internet and space for study + digital literacy
- English lg skills and varieties

Teachers:

- Variety in students' backgrounds:
 - Digital literacy, age, English language skills (L1 & L2 trained and self-taught); experience of academic practices: school leavers & UG;

Also

- Tension around attitudes towards gender and sexual diversity
- Uncertainty about status, personal lives & conflicts with personal goals
- Assessment anxiety: esp R & L

Impact on teachers:

- Fatigue, emotional response to the students' needs and stories, coping with students' mental health and trauma (externalized through various ways)
- Unexpected workload on the administrative staff due to 'quick admit' approach for enrolment
- Knowledge of the Access to HE Programme



2024 ITERATION

Academic:

- Bespoke course with SoTL informed, knowledge-driven curriculum (Molinari, 2022; Thomas & Lok, 2015)
- Wks 1-5 building knowledge & criticality : reading into speaking & writing
- Wks 6- 10 essay writing
- Relevant topic online learning
- Inegrated assessments in writing and speaking (no R & L exams)

Professional:

- SoTL interviewing May students currently at Access Programme + Access staff + relevant documents (e.g. Course manuals etc)
- Knowledge sharing: PIM/ T& L Conference UoG...

Financial:

- Funding beyond SMLC; WP's funding 2024 iteration
- Changed narrative from external profit to mitigating costs

Operational:

- part-time (May & June)
- Different enrolment process
- Working with more WP coordinators



LEARNING SO FAR...

- 1. WP AND EAP COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS AND ARE NATURAL ALLIES
- 2. STRONG IMPACT ON STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE
- 3. EAP'S VALUE UNDERSTOOD AND MORE VISIBLE
 - 4. ONE COLLABORATION OPENS DOORS TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS/PROJECTS
- 5. SCHOLARSHIP STRENGTHENS ARGUMENTS AS WELL AS BUILDS KNOWLEDGE

PARTNERSHIPS ARE CRUCIAL: COLLECTIVE EFFORT

ACCESS COORDINATOR:

AMY MACDERMOTT

EAS ADMINISTRATIVE COLLEAGUES:

LYNNE CLARK
KERRY SHARKEY
NICOLE SMITH

HEAD OF SMLC: STEPHEN FORCER & HEAD OF WP: NEIL CROLL

WP COORDINATORS FOR 2024:

AMY MACDERMOTT SCOTT IGUSCHI-SHERRY AND JEN MCDONALND

WONDERFUL STUDENTS AND ACCESS STAFF PARTICIPATING IN OUR SOTL

IWONA AND SOFIA:-)



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