



# 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

- IMPROVEMENT 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 THE 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-informed 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*
- *Integrated 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 MCDONALD

WONDERFUL STUDENTS AND ACCESS STAFF  
PARTICIPATING IN OUR SOTL

IWONA AND SOFIA:-)



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