

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



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BALEAP PIM: EAP for a more Sustainable World

3rd March 2023

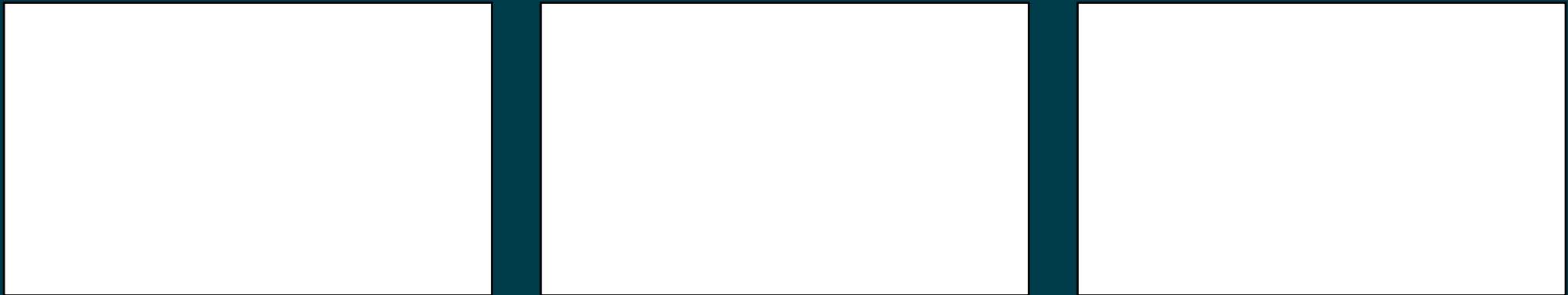
Ways of practising: for teachers

- 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

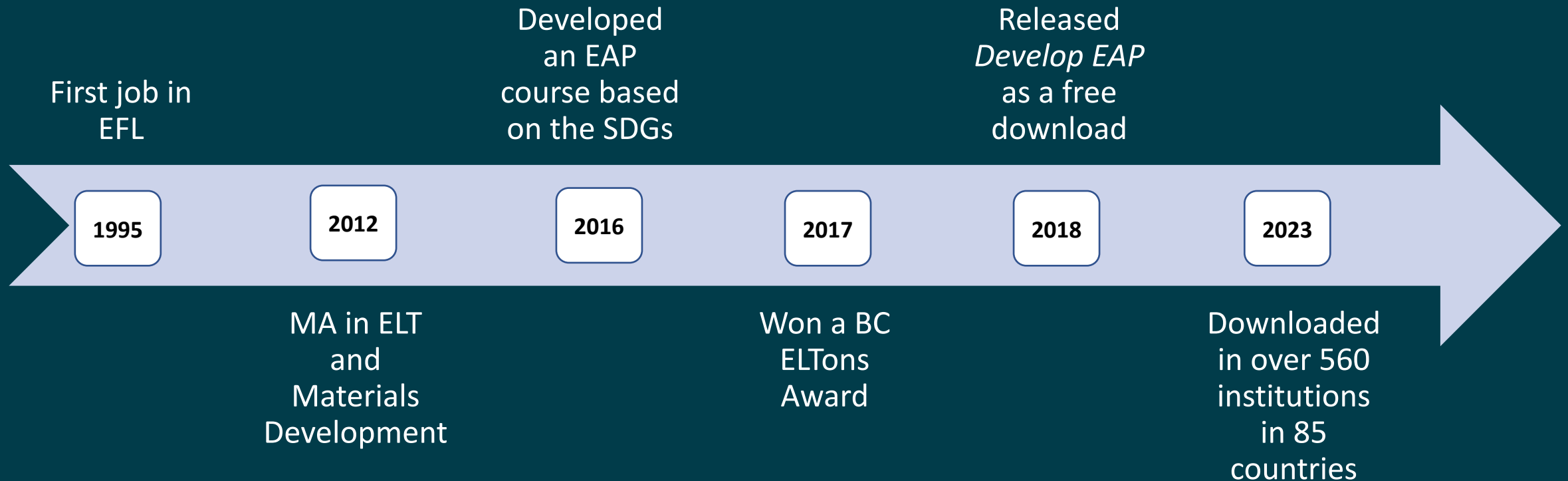
- We wanted to ask some questions we realised we couldn't answer ourselves.



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

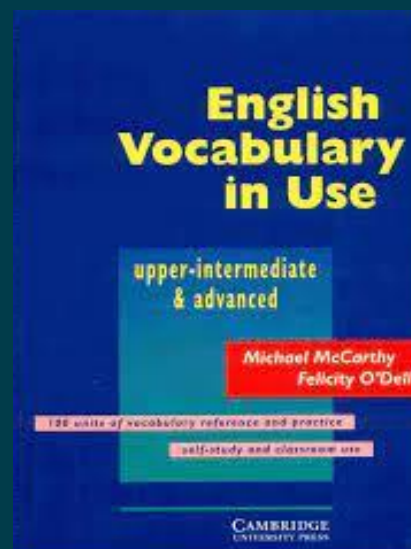
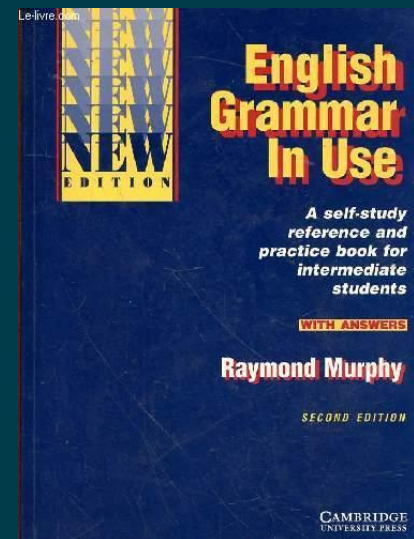
Today's Talk: A journey through time

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



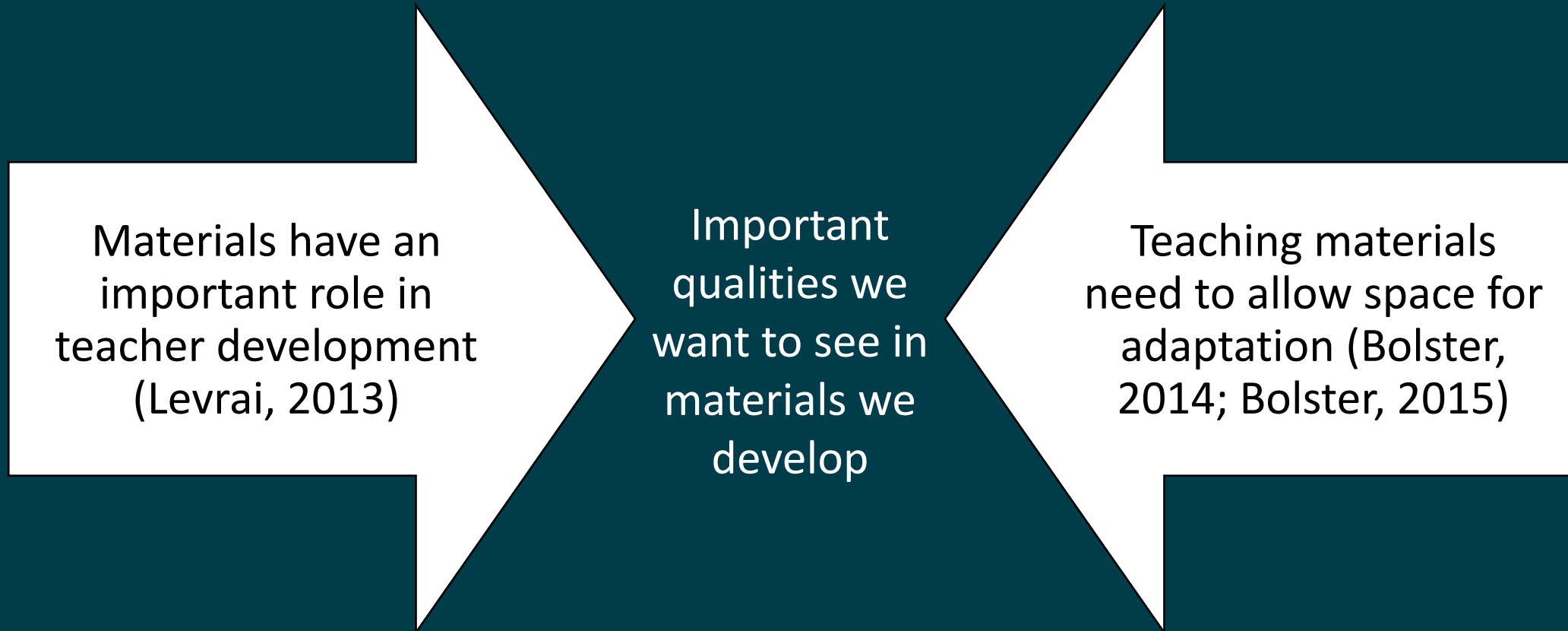
1995: First steps

- 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

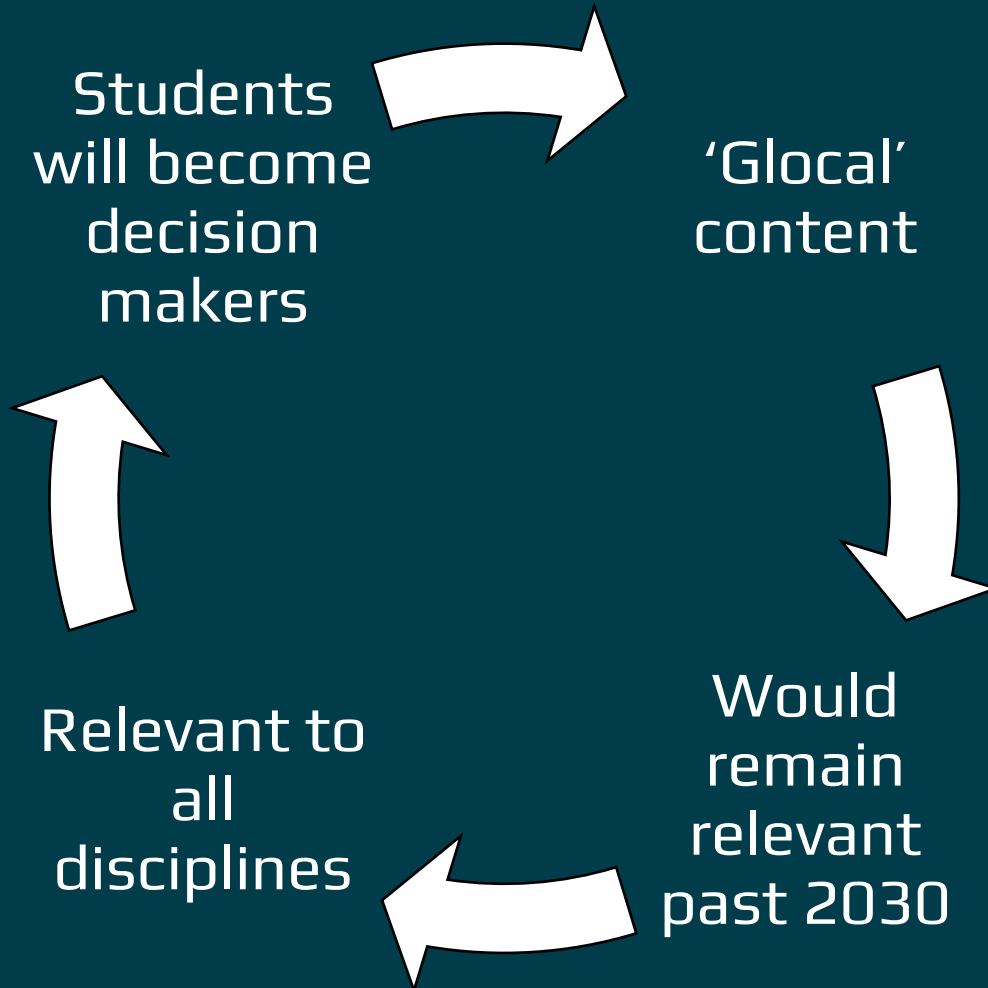
- MA in ELT and Material Development had a profound effect.



2016: Inspiration for *Develop EAP*

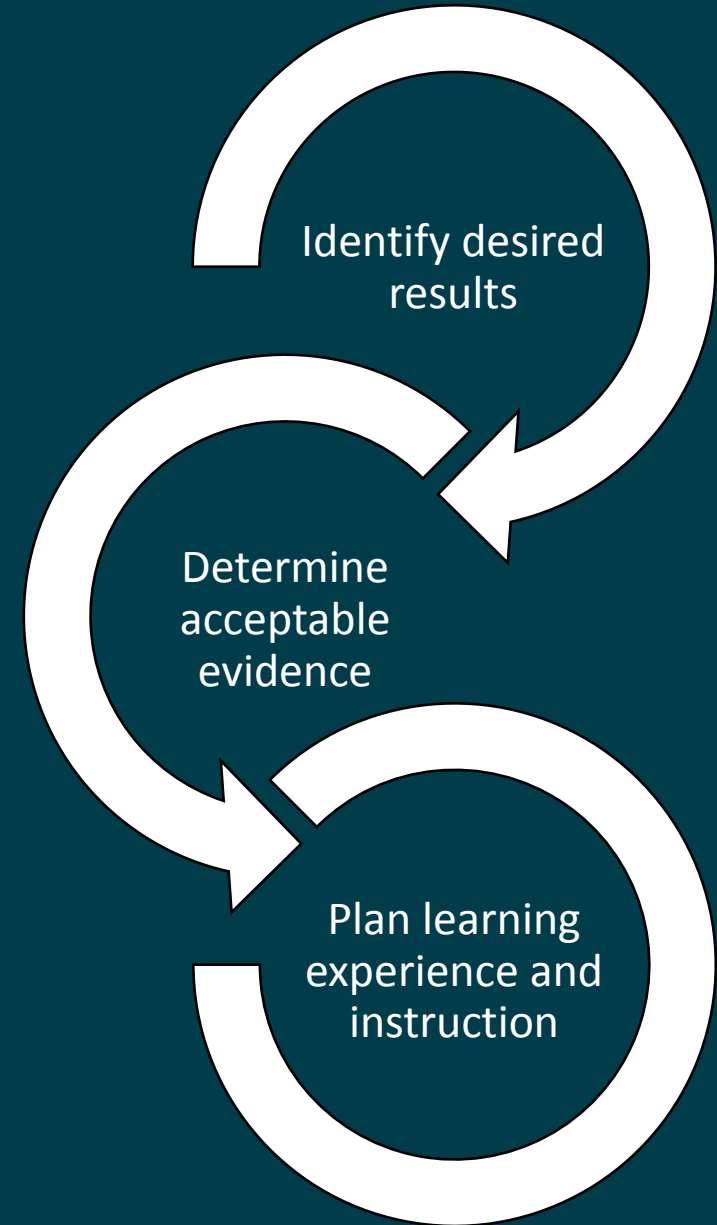
- Tasked with developing an EAP course in University of Macau with a cohort of 1,000+ students annually.
- Needed content that would be suitable across disciplines.
- Selected the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to prior interest in the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).
- This course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

2016: Why the SDGs?



2016: Designing flexibility

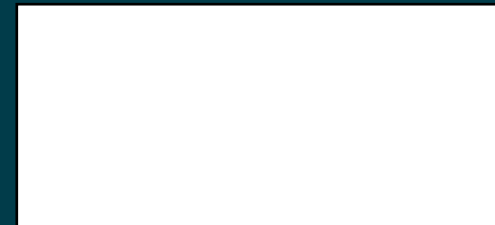
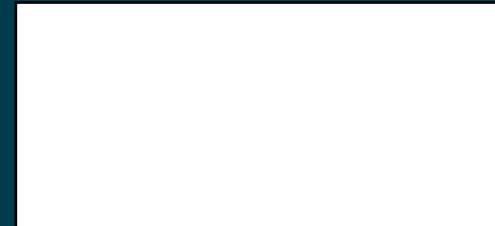
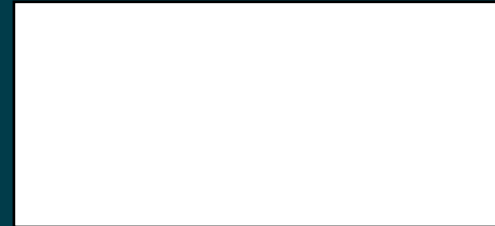
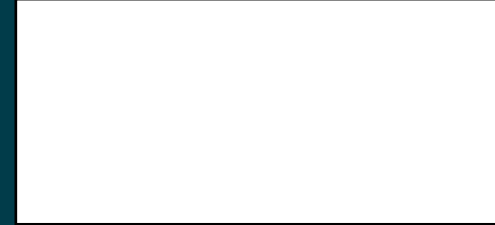
- Followed 'backward design'.
- Aimed for a course that scaffolded students so inputs could change but course could remain stable (Bolster & Levrai, 2017a; Bolster & Levrai 2017b).
- Didn't want single use materials.
- Directed students to great resources already available through QR codes.



Wiggins & McTighe (2005)

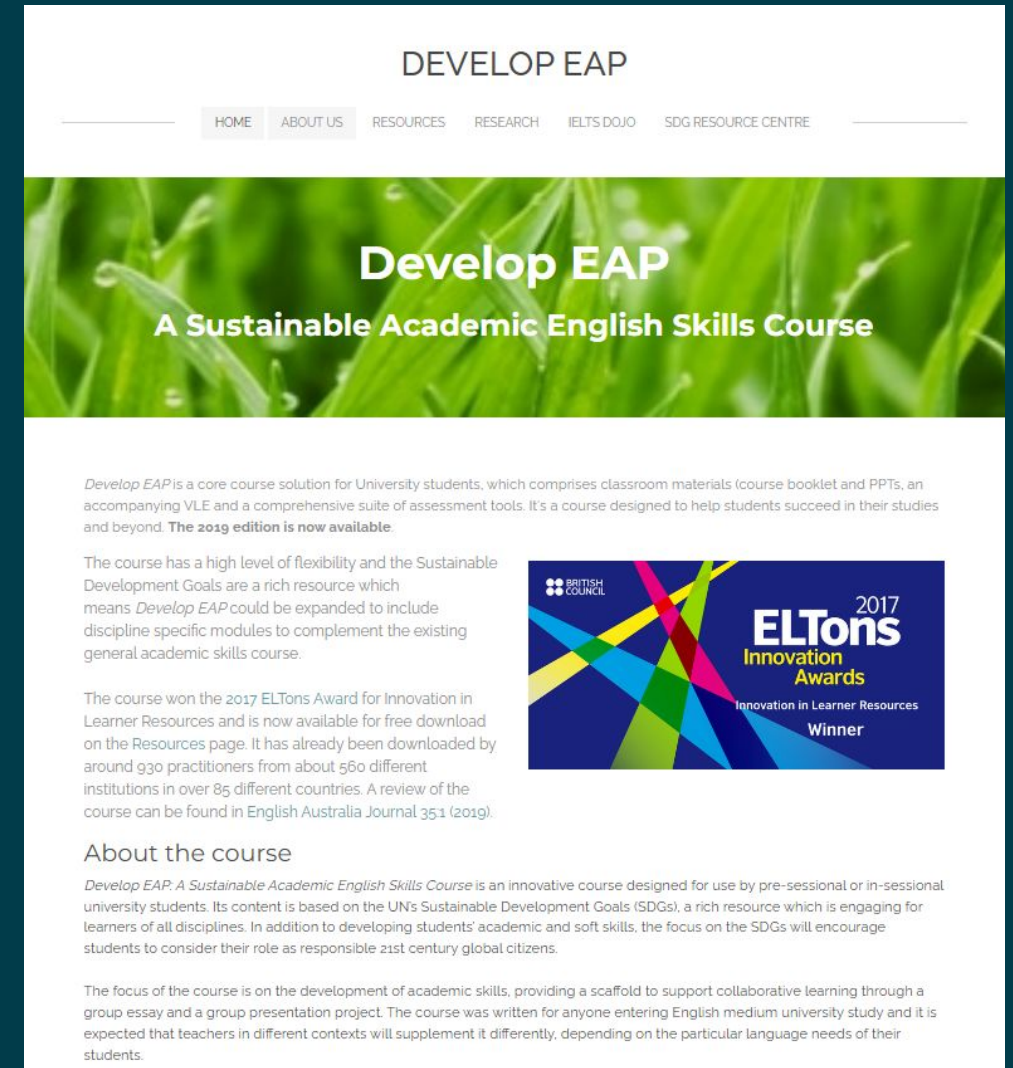
2017: Success, but then what?

- 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.



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?

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Design to say “No” to

single-use

single-purpose

single-semester

single-teacher

single-class

single-cohort

single-institution



materials & resources