

Promoting an international and inclusive learning experience on Year 1 English courses at HKUST



MELISSA MEGAN
SENIOR LECTURER

CENTER FOR LANGUAGE EDUCATION



Two courses

English for University Studies I

English for University Studies II

* Taken by most Year 1 students (current enrolment 2054)

~ 10% international students

~ 10% students from Mainland China

Class size – 20 students

Promoting an international and inclusive learning experience through...

themes/materials

pedagogical approach

assessment design

English for University Studies I

Unit 1, People, Passion, Possibilities

Objectives:

1. To try to capture the excitement of students starting their university life; and by building on this excitement, help them to extend their English. They discuss topics which students embarking on a new stage of their life at a university are hopefully awake to, concerning intellectual curiosity and receptiveness to new ideas...

A Framework for Task-Based Learning (Willis, 1996)

In this framework, which we have adapted to our university context, a thematic focus provides a context for tasks, which usually require small group collaboration and discussion, and are central to the course approach.

In each task cycle, a five-stage sequence, students attempt the task using the language they already have at their disposal: Pre-task activities → The Task → Academic Literacy Focus → Language Focus → Follow-up Task.

As students do the task, teachers notice aspects of their performance that indicate a gap in their language or skill repertoire. It is only after the task that teachers help students to bridge this gap.

English for University Studies II

Unit 1, In the Eye of the Beholder