

A balancing act: Developing an EAP course for music students

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Abstract

As a part of the new four-year curriculum, Centre for Applied English Studies will provide the Department of Music with a discipline-specific EAP course which aims to complement one of the core subject courses “Introduction to Western Music History 1.” This EAP course will focus on the English registers and genres used in the field of music and the language that students will need as music majors.

Developing this course has been challenging, especially due to a lack of previous research into the language needs of ESL music students. Another challenge is that this course needs to be differentiated from general EAP courses while at the same time being careful not to “cross-over” into teaching content. In order to inform this course, consultation and collaboration with disciplinary teachers was sought, research was done into writing about music, pilots of teaching units were run and student essays from the course “Introduction to Western Music History 1” were collected and analysed.

This paper will focus on the challenges of creating a space for this course between the general EAP course and the content course.