

International Writing across the Curriculum (IWAC) Conference  
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Title: Supporting Student Learning Through an 'English-Across-the-Curriculum' Approach

**Abstract:**

At the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and its Community college, English is the medium of learning and teaching even though the vast majority of students are non-native speakers of English. Despite the provision of the academic and workplace English training in compulsory English language subjects, many students do not apply the English skills that they have learnt, e.g. academic register and conventions, when doing assignments in their content subjects. The University therefore procured funding from the University Grants Council to gather a community of teachers from various academic disciplines (e.g. Engineering, Logistics, Nursing, Social Science) and from the English language centre to explore an 'English across the curriculum' approach to support students' continuous development in English language skills, in particular writing and speaking skills, in content subjects. This paper reports how discipline teachers and English language teachers have worked hand in hand to develop language-supportive assessment guides for students; and how the English language centres in the University and Community College have provided discipline teachers and their students extra language resources to help students acquire the language skills they need to master the genres in their disciplines. The paper will also report teacher and student feedback on the new 'English across the curriculum' approach.