

“Aligning EAP Assessments” Professional Development Event

An EAP in the North event held jointly by University of Dundee EIS and University of St Andrews ELT, with keynote speaker Dr Anthony Manning (University of Kent)

DATE AND TIME

Tuesday September 4th, 2pm-5pm

LOCATION

Room 2F11 Dalhousie building, Old Hawkhill, DD1 5EN (14 on [campus map](#)). There is a public car park across the road from Dalhousie (off Old Hawkhill) if you are travelling by car. It takes about 15 minutes to walk from the train station to Dalhousie with plenty of pubs and restaurants in South Tay Street and Old Hawkhill if you need sustenance along the way.

OVERVIEW

The term “constructive alignment” was originally introduced by higher education researcher John Biggs to refer to the alignment of intended learning outcomes, teaching/learning activities, and assessments. This approach to education is of relevance to EAP practitioners, who are often required to create assessments that align with learning outcomes covering English language and academic skills, which must in turn align with external frameworks such as the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

This event will explore some of the challenges for EAP practitioners in aligning assessments and marking criteria with learning outcomes, external frameworks and contextual needs.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

“How test specifications can support construct validity in EAP assessment” – Dr Anthony Manning

This session will provide an insight into the importance of construct validity and how the use of test specifications can be a useful tool for EAP practitioners. Creating and operationalising in-house tests or assessments for EAP is an important activity, given the range of stakeholders who might be involved or affected. The impact of a poorly-constructed test or an inaccurate measure of students’ proficiency might include the test-takers themselves as well as the institutions they will study with or the employers who might give them a job. This is why making an effort to strengthen the construct validity of tests or assessments is important and why assessment or test specifications are a useful tool to help guide this process

KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIO

Dr Anthony Manning (BA, MA, EdD, PGCE, PGCHE, PFHEA, FLF) is Dean for Internationalisation at University of Kent. He is also an experienced EAP practitioner and researcher, and author of “Assessing EAP: Theory and practice in Assessment Literacy”, which was recently published by Garnet Education.

PLANNED SCHEDULE

Phase 1	2pm-3pm	Presentation by Dr Anthony Manning – “How test specifications can support construct validity in EAP assessment” – followed by Q&A.
Phase 2	3pm-4pm	Several short presentations from/Q&A with EAP practitioners on experiences aligning assessments with learning outcomes, external frameworks and/or contextual needs.
Phase 3	4pm-5pm	Participants share previous EAP assessments in groups and analyse/discuss from the perspective of alignment. The final 15 minutes will be used for the reporting back of instances of good practice, and general summary comments.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS

We are seeking a one or more practitioners from another institution to deliver a ten-minute presentation reflecting on experience aligning EAP assessments to learning outcomes. Interested parties should email a brief description of what they would like to present to Eoin Jordan (epj2@st-andrews.ac.uk) and Amanda Shaw (a.e.shaw@dundee.ac.uk) by Monday August 20th at the latest.

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Participants from any institution are welcome to join this event. There is no registration fee.

If you are interested in attending then please register [here](#) by Monday August 27th at the latest. Participants are encouraged to bring with them a previously used (i.e. not live) EAP assessment, to share and discuss with peers during the final hour of the event.