EAP in the North:
Online Tutoring in Academic Writing

ELTC, the University of Edinburgh

Programme

- 14.15-14.30
  - **Arrival** and Refreshments
- 14.30-14.55
  - **Overview** of ELTC online provision (in-session and pre-sessional)
- 14.55-15.30
  - **Topic 1:** The Range of Provision at Different Institutions
- 15.30-15.40
  - **Break**
- 15.40-16.15
  - **Topic 2:** The Challenge of Making Online Tutoring more Interactive
- 16.15-16.45
  - **Topic 3:** Quality Assurance Issues
- 16.45
  - Closing remarks

Overview of ELTC provision

- **Introduction**
  - Michael Jenkins
- **English Language Testing and Tuition (ELTT)**
  - Cathy Benson and Kenneth Anderson
- **Online Pre-sessional Academic Language (OPAL)**
  - Anton Elloway
- **Tailored in-session courses: College of Medicine; School of Social and Political Science**
  - Tony Lynch
- **Challenges**
  - Michael Jenkins
- **Quality Assurance**
  - Anne Heller

Challenges

- Timetabling
- Staffing
- Technical
- Registration
- Communication
- Funding
- Deficit vs value added

English Language Testing and Tuition

- **Testing**: TEAM
  - Test of English at Matriculation
- **Tuition**
  - **Essential Grammar**
  - **Writing Post-Graduate Assignments**
  - **Writing a First Year Report**

Online Pre-sessional Academic Language course (OPAL)

Anton Elloway

Distance Education Initiative

DEI Student Experience Working Group:

Identified English language support as priority

- ODL students have access to ELTC in-session courses

- No ODL equivalent of ELTC pre-sessional summer on-campus English courses

Online Pre-sessional Academic Language course (OPAL)

DEI Student Services project bid

(Sarah Henderson and Tony Lynch)

- Research and course development
- Materials production (0.4 learning technologist)
- Tutors (3) and CD for pilot in summer 2013

OPAL pilot

– five course weeks (leading up to Induction Week)

– 56 free student places

– students with minimum Writing score for programme entry or one level above

OPAL units

1. Introduction to e-Learning
2. Online Academic Communication
3. Exploring Academic Language in Your Field
4. Critical Reading and Writing
5. e-Tools for Academic Writing

OPAL in more detail

1. Introduction to e-Learning
   self-introduction, collaboration, Net as academic resource
2. Online Academic Communication
   netiquette; styles for Chat, Discussion, emails to staff
3. Exploring Academic Language in Your Field
4. Critical Reading and Writing
   evaluation, citation, acknowledgment (plagiarism)
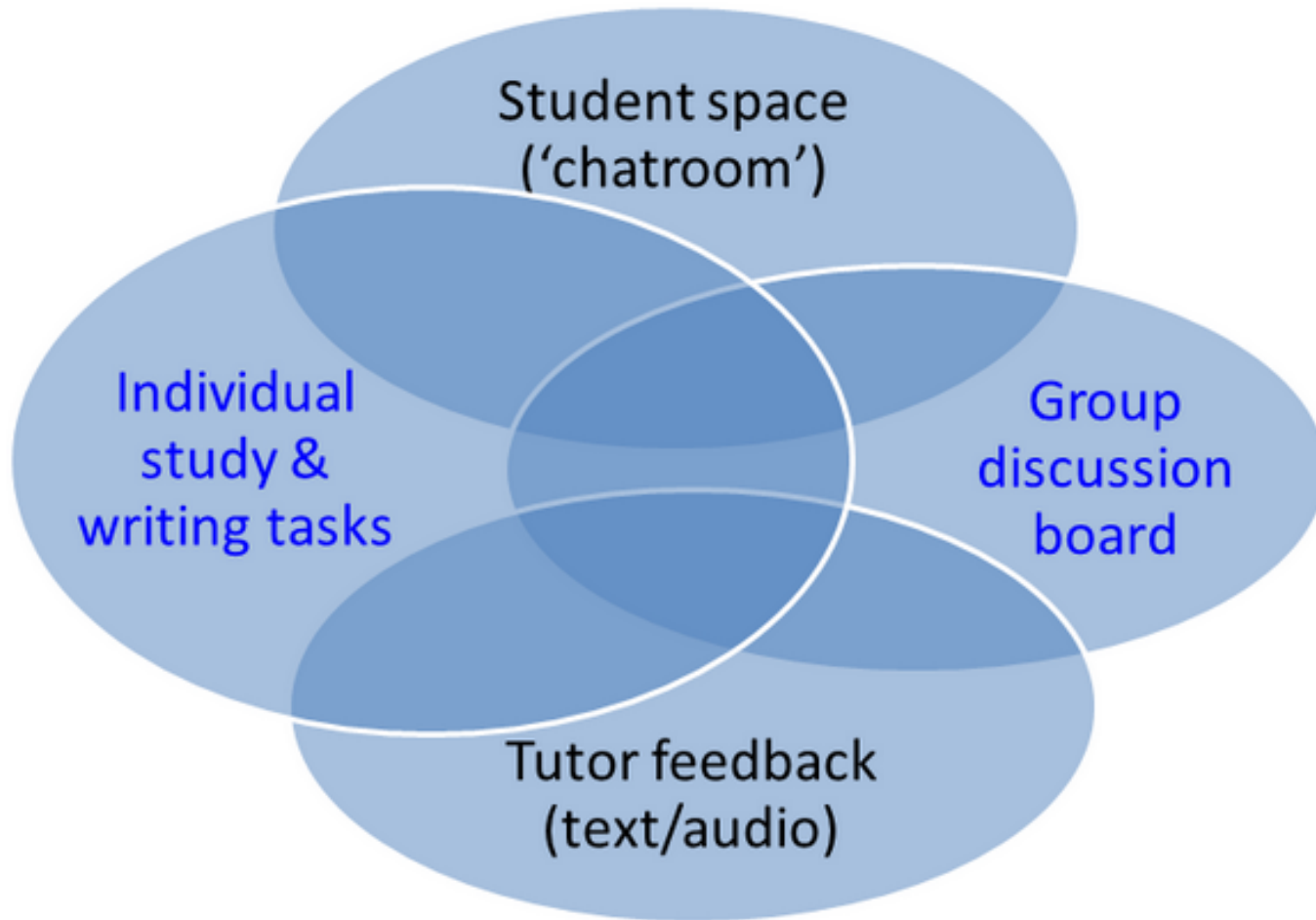5. e-Tools for Academic Writing
   reference tools in Word, *Academic Phrase Bank*

Online tutoring is…

"… primarily coaching, mentoring, guiding and directing learning, rather than lecturing and telling. OL courses are more of a bottom-up development of knowledge that requires learners to interact with one another and the content resources to construct their knowledge rather than relying on the trickle-down delivery of content from a teacher".

adapted from Boettcher and Conrad (2010: 7)

Spaces & activities

Organisation (Week 3)

- Test   15
- Read   5
- Activity   15
- Read   10
- Discuss   30   Response to article on vocab learning
- Read   10
- Activity   15
- Watch   15
- Activity   30
- Writ Journal   60   Reflection on week's work **→ Tutor feedback**
- Discussion   15   Response to two Qs (reflections)
- Chat   10

Reference

Boettcher, J. and Conrad, R. (2010). *The Online Teaching Survival Guide*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Contact addresses for OPAL

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(adapted from earlier version by Tony Lynch)

Tailored writing courses (NNS+NS)

Both in Semester 1

- ***Scientific Academic Writing*** - for MSc by Research students in the College of

  Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

- ***Social and Political Science Academic Writing*** for taught Masters students in the School of SPS

Tailored writing courses

- adapted versions of generic *Writing Postgraduate Assignments* (ELTT)
- accessed on **Learn**
- specialist essay
- five weekly units, leading to Writing task
- feedback:
  - weeks 1-4: from ELTC tutor
  - week 5 (complete essay): marked by School or College staff, but does not count towards assessment

QA of online tutoring in EAP writing

Tutor

Student

Course

Courses

- Design processes
- Collaborative materials development
- Reviews

Students

- Appropriate allocation
- Measuring satisfaction
- Measuring success

Tutoring

- Appropriate deployment
- Induction
- Ongoing monitoring – 'visits' & 'observations'
- Feedback