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ESAP – the 5th emergency service?



Background information

- CEWL's In-session provision caters for any department interested in bespoke/ESAP language support.
- Mainly taken up by the Kent Business School (KBS) and the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science.

Kent Business School

- Two courses – one postgraduate and one undergraduate
- Testing takes place early in the autumn term.
- Students who get C and below are asked to take the English Language Support classes which run for 6 weeks.
- Not compulsory.

Undergraduate

- Difficult to get students on board even when they acknowledge that they need help with language and study skills.
- Department strongly encourages students to attend.
- Attendance was poor

Postgraduate

- Students recognised that the course was an opportunity
- Attendance was consistently good – much higher than anticipated
- The Director of Postgraduate studies at KBS clearly identified areas that students also felt they needed help with
- Improvement was not clear

Actuarial Science

One group of postgraduates (28)

Course leader wrote and administered the diagnostic and summative tests based on an authentic Actuarial Science topic area (marked by CEWL).

Course was compulsory – attendance was monitored by the course leader

Continuous dialogue between CEWL and Actuarial Science

All students showed some improvement in accuracy and ability to summarise.

Trust/ assumption that CEWL staff would be able to use Actuarial terminology and concepts.

Departmental briefing

KBS Postgraduate

- Referencing
- Academic Style
- Report writing – layout, executive summaries, findings and recommendations.
- Describing and analysing charts and data (getting away from IELTS style descriptions).
- Provided examples of past student's work.

Actuarial Science

- To 'fix their grammar'.
- Areas identified from diagnostic test.
- Prepositions, articles, verb tenses, coherence and cohesion, academic style, summarising and paraphrasing.