

# Pre-Masters Programmes: Successfully Bridging the Gap?



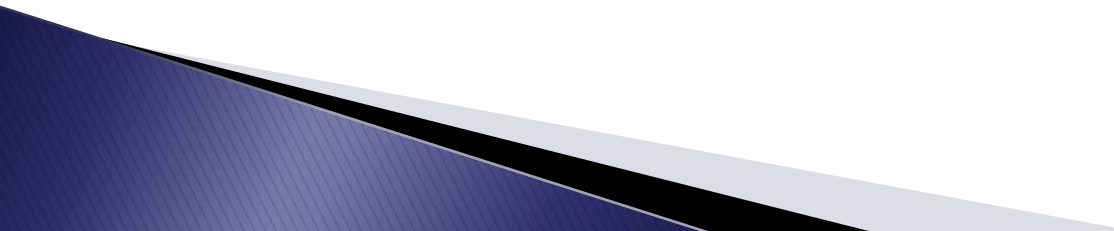
Louise Pullen & Phil Horspool  
ELTU, University of Leicester

# What is it and Who is it for?

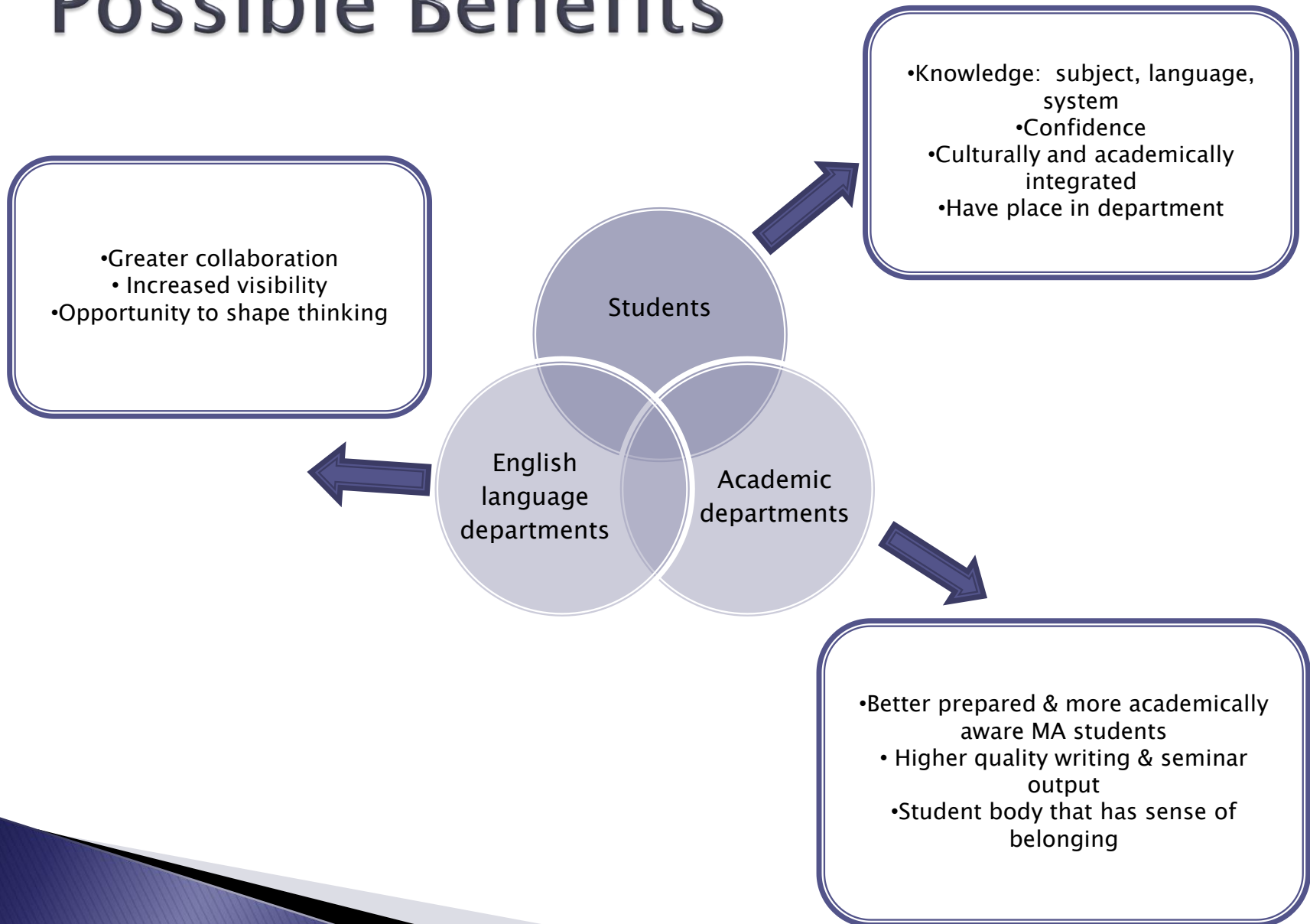
“(It) provides a bridge between undergraduate and postgraduate study.” **University of Essex**

“(It is) For international students who want to study at graduate level at top UK universities and who wish to improve their linguistic and academic skills prior to commencing their degree. “ **Kings College London**

# Our Pre-Masters students

- ▶ Media
  - ▶ IELTS 5.5 or equivalent
  - ▶ Integrated into existing year 3 media modules
  - ▶ Want to do Masters degree at Leicester
- 

# Possible Benefits



# Problems encountered and how we have overcome them

## **Problem:**

Lower level of English than other year 3 students.

Students don't have benefit of years 1 and 2 input.

Lack of subject knowledge on our Pre-Masters

## **Solution:**

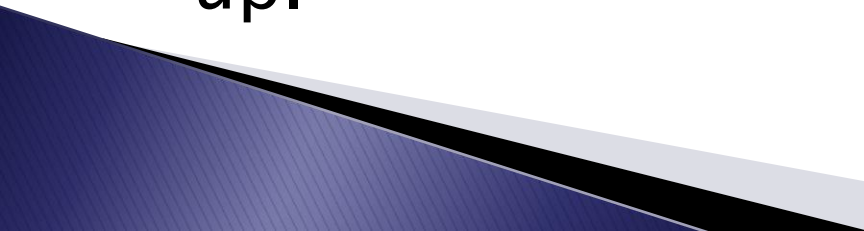
English component of course front-loaded

Department willing to make adjustments and allowances.


Integrated content, skills and language syllabus



# Results

- ▶ Encouraging. Early indications suggest good pass rate from pre-Masters to Masters and success on Masters programme.
  - ▶ Department liaises effectively with ourselves.
  - ▶ Student feedback positive. Students see the benefit of an extra year.
  - ▶ Other departments interested in similar set up.
- 

# Future considerations

- ▶ How can we help students to integrate more successfully?
  - ▶ How can we marry content and language?
  - ▶ What is the optimum number of hours of English for these students?
  - ▶ How can we better promote the value of doing a pre-Masters to students and departments?
- 

- ▶ If you want to continue sharing ideas and discussing issues related to Pre-Masters programmes, please contact Phil Horspool [ph25@le.ac.uk](mailto:ph25@le.ac.uk) or Louise Pullen [lap18@le.ac.uk](mailto:lap18@le.ac.uk) and we will begin an online discussion forum.