



Technische
Hochschule
Wildau [FH]
*Technical University
of Applied Sciences*

Internationalisation and the role of English in tertiary education

Martin Bradbeer

Background to Talk



With an ever increasing emphasis on internationalization and the continuous rise of English as a lingua franca, comes a growing need for universities to offer degree courses in English. This consequently leads to increasing English language demands on the teaching staff. But where does this leave the non-native English speaker lecturer? This talk will look at results of research run at the University of Applied Sciences in Wildau near Berlin, dealing with issues of providing English language support to university teaching staff and discuss how English teachers in higher education institutions can deal with the needs of lecturers who need English language support in order to run their courses in English.

Location of the UAS Wildau







Degrees

23	direct courses	
8	distance learning courses	
1	MBA	(WIT)
1	Aviation Management	(WIT)
1	Telematics	(WIT)
1	Alpha Bravo2	(WIT)

Faculties

3

Students

4249 (as of 31 October 2011)

Staff

(including teaching staff)

282 (as of 31 October 2009)

Professors (budgeted positions)

62

Guest professors

4

Temporary professors

21

Staff in projects

64 (annual average)

Evaluated Courses

- **Industrial Engineering and Management, Logistics, Business Computing and Business Administration** in the **top group** of the universities of applied sciences in Germany (2007)
- **Biosystems Technology/Bioinformatics and Telematics** under the **four best courses** in the group of informatics at universities of applied sciences and universities in German-speaking region (CHE 2006)
- **Logistics** in the **top place** among German-speaking courses of Industrial Engineering at universities of applied sciences in Germany (2007)
- **UAS Wildau** is rated as the **most service-oriented** university of applied sciences in Germany (INSM-Study 2007)

Reasons to internationalize...



“The waters of globalisation are rising around higher education - and the university believes that if it remains Italian-speaking it risks isolation and will be unable to compete as an international institution.

"We strongly believe our classes should be international classes - and ***the only way to have international classes is to use the English language,***" says the university's rector, Giovanni Azzone."

Lecturer Language Support



- **One to one**
- **Class observation**
- **Proofreading materials**
- **Workshops**
- **Support for conferences, publications etc**
- **Assessing students' oral performances in exams**

- **Few institutions offer dedicated language support for professors**
 - Lack of money
 - Lack of time
- **Consistent positive feedback**
- **Work independently**
- **Resistance from professors themselves**
- **Many courses offered in English at Bachelor and Master level**
- **Issue of balance between language and content knowledge**
- **No specific material on the market for teaching professors**

Questionnaire on student attitudes towards courses taught in English (EMI) run at the University of Applied Sciences Wildau, March and April 2012 – 72 respondents

Main results:

- **91.7%** think courses run in English important or very important (EMI: English as a Medium of Instruction)
- **97.2%** consider the language level of the lecturer to be important or very important
- **59%** think the lecturers' vocabulary knowledge and pronunciation to be important
- **33%** consider these to be very important
- **14%** are not satisfied with their lecturers' English
- **74%** are satisfied
- **12%** are very satisfied
- **56.9%** are not concerned when a lecturer makes a language mistake
- **41.7%** are not concerned when their English is better than the lecturers'
- **86.1%** would help a lecturer if they are stuck for a word

Research 2 – Key messages

- **Students welcome the chance of having EMI**
- **Students are fairly tolerant when it comes down to lecturers' English**
- **Would help out lecturers with their English**
- **Place high importance on lecturers' language competence**
- **Demand on the lecturers to provide courses in English and deliver them competently, but who can also depend on the tolerance and support of their students**

Having the chance to have EMI is more important than having lecturers who speak perfect English!

Internationalization in tertiary education is growing: the English language demands on teaching staff are also growing:

- **Need to provide lecturers in tertiary education with English language support**
- **Arguments needed for setting up such support in-house**
- **Support for setting up such support**
- **Information exchange on funding possibilities**
- **University directorate, local and national ministers to buy in**
- **Forum to exchange experiences, knowledge etc**
 - **ning**
 - **conferences**
 - **email...**

The way forward...

- **English for Academic Purposes, Wildau May 2012**
 - Focus on internationalization
 - 90 participants and speakers from Germany-wide plus Italy, Switzerland, the UK, Finland, Russia
 - Great interest and motivation for EAP events: exchange of information, views, material, forum to discuss and network
- **Annual event: 4th May 2013 at the Humboldt University, Berlin**
- **Support from other institutions such as the British Council – methodology (see me afterwards...)**
- **European Lecturers of English for Academic Purposes: <http://euleap.ning.com/>**



MEMBERS



[View All](#)

PURPOSE

Welcome to EULEAP, a professional social network for European lecturers engaged in teaching English for academic purposes.

FORUM



LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR THOSE TEACHING IN ENGLISH

Started by Martin Bradbeer in [Discussions](#). Last reply by Leo Fabris Oct 28.

3 Replies 0 Likes

A key part of my work involves providing English language support to lecturers who either already teach in English or plan to in the near future. Having talked to many English teachers at universities about this, it seems that though there are...

[Continue](#)



A COMPACT, 6 SESSION COURSE ON ACADEMIC

COMMUNICATION

Started by Anne Hodgson in [Meetings and agenda](#). Last reply by Anne Hodgson Oct 15.

2 Replies 0 Likes

Dear all, Last year I gave a compact course (24 teaching units in class, 6 for review and feedback) on a one year masters' course (Public Management) to prepare international students for their one year at a German university. I'm just getting ready...

[Continue](#)



LINK TO NICE ARTICLE TO USE WHEN EXPLAINING SCIENCE

ABSTRACTS

Started by mura nava in [Discussions](#). Last reply by mura nava Oct 8.

Welcome to
EULEAP

[Sign Up](#)
or [Sign In](#)

LATEST ACTIVITY



Olwyn Alexander posted an event

BALEAP BIENNIAL

CONFERENCE AT

NOTTINGHAM, UK

April 19, 2013 at 12:30pm to
April 21, 2013 at 2pm

yesterday

0 0



Olwyn Alexander is now a member of EULEAP

Friday

[Welcome Them!](#)



Leo Fabris replied to Martin Bradbeer's discussion Language support for those teaching in English

Oct 28

GROUPS



EAP CONFERENCE 2013

8 members

0 0



EAP 2013 ORG

7 members

[View All](#)

Questions:

- If you work in tertiary education, what, if any, English language support is provided to the lecturers?
- If your institution does not offer such support, why not? Is it because it is not perceived to be necessary? Because no one has asked about it? Because resources are scarce?
- If you are not involved in tertiary education, what would you consider to be the main issues regarding providing language support to teaching staff? What are the main obstacles/problems? What are the possible solutions?



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Keep in touch!

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**Germany
Land of Ideas**



Selected Landmark 2007

