



UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Making the transition virtually

Online learning tools to help
international students acquire the
study skills and knowledge of academic
culture needed for UK higher education

Julie Watson
17 Nov 2011

Overview

- Prepare for Success (PfS) - a pre-arrival online tool to introduce aspects of UK academic culture and study skills
- The EAP Toolkit - an in-sessional online resource set to help students develop academic skills and language
- Institutional use of PfS and EAP Toolkit
- A shared pedagogic approach
- Discussion activity
- Questions

Prepare for Success website

- Menu of 23 multimedia learning resources, introducing aspects of academic life, study skills, and teaching and learning styles in the UK
- Study Pathways: a choice of routes through the learning resources by skill or by topic
- FAQs: browsable bank of simple questions and answers about academic study in the UK
- FAQs for FE: browsable bank of specific questions and answers for students entering Further Education
- Teacher/institution webpage with downloadable resources and usage guidance
- Linked social networking sites: Facebook and Twitter

Prepare for Success

- Since July 2008 over 400,000 visits
- Student users from 213 countries
- 100+ UK receiving institutions use it (HE 80%; FE 20%)
- c.270 site feedback forms from student users
- Use by other institutions (UK secondary schools and sixth form colleges, institutions overseas)
- Traffic through 'referrer' websites linking to PfS

Use in pre- and post-arrival induction

Durham University (pre-arrival resource)

University of the Creative Arts (international student support)

University of Nottingham (Pathways – a pre-arrival resource)

University of Portsmouth (PrepUP: a pre-arrival course)

University of Reading (Get Prep@red; pre-arrival resource for International Foundation Programme)

University of Exeter (Preseasonal Independent Study Programme)

University of Glamorgan (Self directed study)

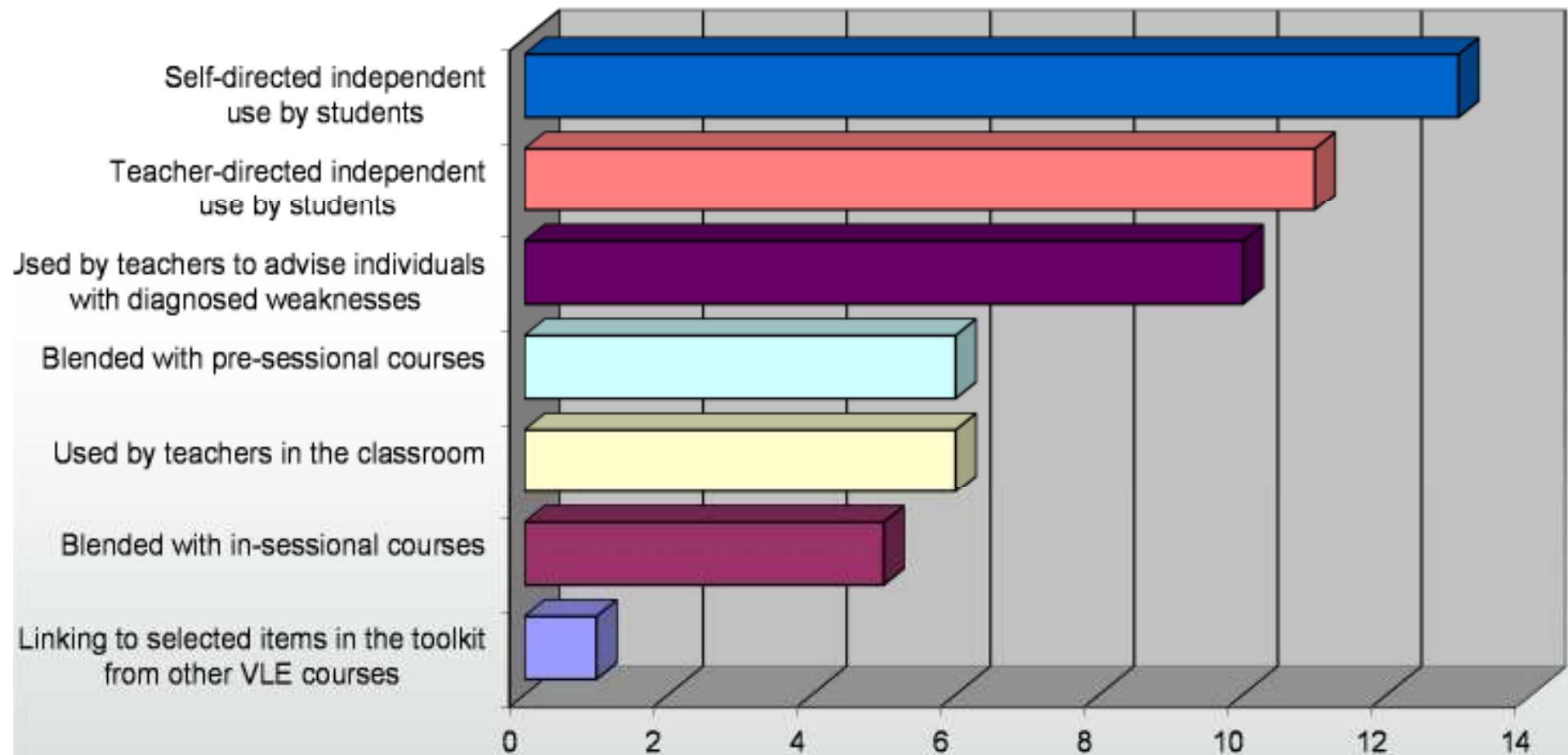
EAP Toolkit

- In-sessional online tool for academic study skills and language development
- For international students (c. 5.5 to 7 IELTS /equiv.)
- 100+ interactive learning resources (80+ hours learning activity)
- Refreshed for 2011/licensed to other institutions since 2005
- For VLE use in Moodle, Blackboard etc. or web-hosted access
- Versatile use

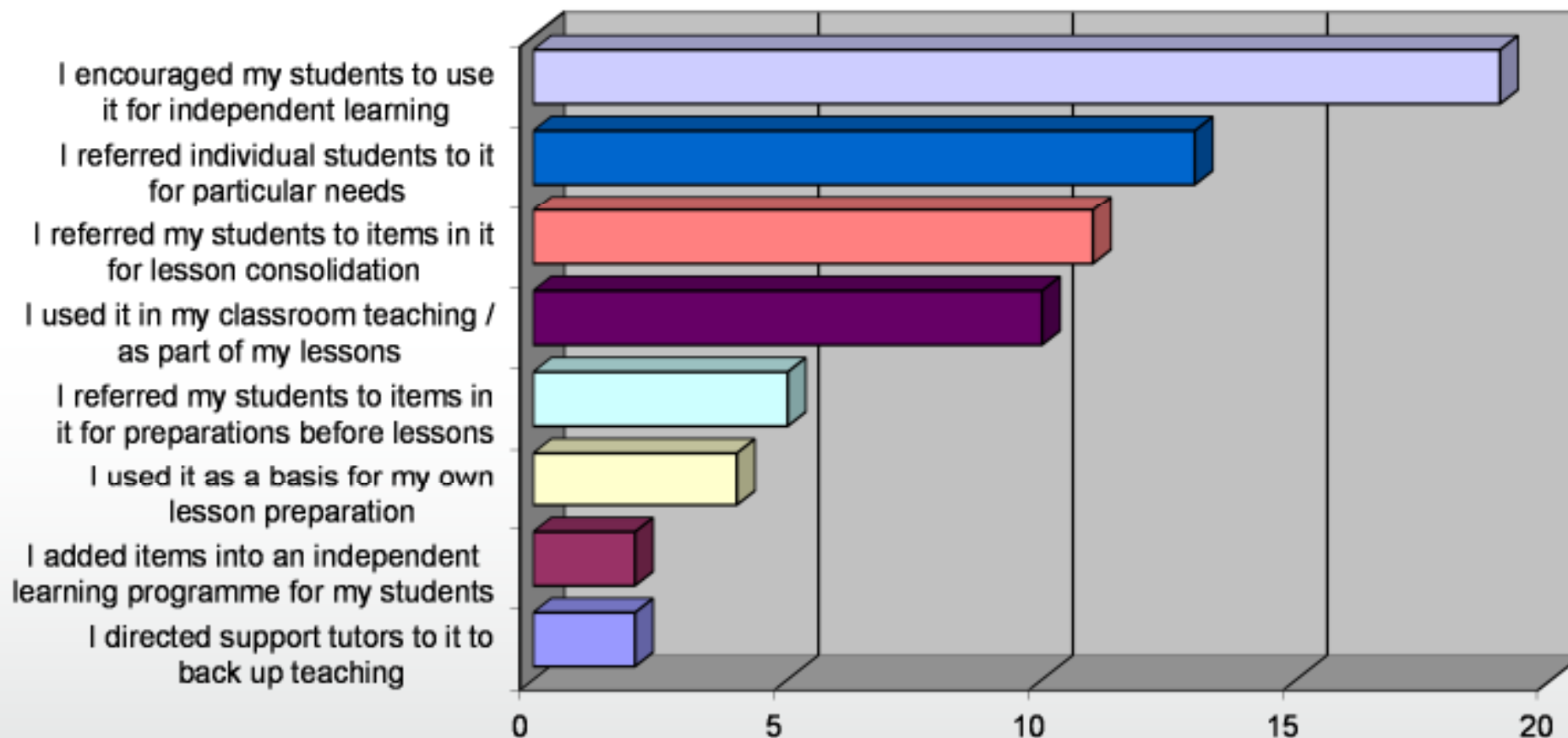
EAP Toolkit contents

- Learning to study
- Academic writing
- Academic reading and critical thinking
- Academic listening and note-taking
- Academic communication skills
- Grammar for academic purposes
- Vocabulary for academic purposes

How do institutions use the EAP Toolkit?



How did teachers use the EAP Toolkit?



Shared design features

- Separable building blocks for induction course/resource set inclusion
- Activity-based approach ‘learning by doing’
- Engage students in reflection
- Enhanced with feedback, help, extra resources
- Make use of different media (audio, video, text, flash)
- Flexible modes of delivery/ use
- Consistently designed, styled and sized (bite-sized chunks for learning)
- LOC authoring tool (www.llas.ac.uk/loc)

Discussion activity

Supporting international students in your own institution

- Question sheet
- www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk
- Temporary session login for EAP Toolkit if you have a laptop with you:
 - Username:
 - Password:



Thank you for listening!
Any questions or comments?

Julie Watson J.Watson@soton.ac.uk

www.elanguages.ac.uk (EAP Toolkit and
Study Skills Toolkit)