Developing Content Area Courses in English: ECOSTAR’s Collaborative Model

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Core challenge of EMI courses (English as a Medium of Instruction)

How to help international students who may not be native English speakers to:

- understand lectures
- cope with assigned readings
- write assignments and papers
- deliver oral presentations
- express their level of knowledge

- all in English.
Examples of language-related difficulties

- increased misconceptions and shallow conceptualizations
- can lead to ‘watering down’ of content
- language-related questions use up classroom time

• Would you repeat the question?
• Could you say it again more slowly?
• Would you please explain it a different way?
• What does the word ______ mean?
ECOSTAR’s Collaborative Model
EMI Handbook Tempus-ecostar.iucc.ac.il
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of student support</th>
<th>Examples of content lecturer support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous pre-mobility Summer Immersion courses – focus on technology toolkit for understanding academic texts and increasing high-frequency academic vocabulary.</td>
<td>Teaching lecturers to use <em>Roads to Academic Reading</em> – text-profiling software that automatically generates glossaries.</td>
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<td>Writing academic research in English: Small-group tutoring by EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teachers.</td>
<td>Collaborative preparation of materials to support flipped classroom – giving students glossaries with lecture recordings, handouts and ppts to review at own pace BEFORE the lesson.</td>
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<td>Oral presentations in English: Small-group tutoring by EFL teachers.</td>
<td>Video-based lecturer coaching – constructive feedback e.g. strategies for reducing cognitive load.</td>
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Future Directions

- Developing digital tools to help students write their academic research papers in English.

- Establishment of national online discipline-based professional development programs for academic faculty who teach their content courses in English.

- Programmatic research on short- and long-term impact of content courses taught in English – what works and under what conditions.
Putting content and language support together

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