

Assessing the Impact: An Analysis of Student Outcomes in Public Sector English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Programs – an Update on Current Research

Dr. Danielle Freitas

Associate Dean, English Language Institute
Fanshawe College

Julian Inglis

Associate Director, ESL
Brock University

Dr. Julie Peters

Vice President Research
Academica Group

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Outline

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Why this research?

- 2022 LC Annual Survey: concerning picture for public sector
 - public sector members - recovered only 40% of pre-pandemic student numbers and student weeks
 - private sector - recovered 73% of student numbers and 89% of student weeks
- Research needed to quantify the contribution that EAP/FAP programs make to the retention and success of international students
 - support both internal advocacy within public member institutions and international marketing and recruitment

Why this research?

- Individual public sector programs have gathered data on pathway outcomes
 - Retention
 - Student success
- These data reflect the strength of individual programs
- Independent, coordinated research will highlight our strengths on a national scale

Why now?

- Current research project – the result of a long process...
 - Public Sector Interest Group (PSIG) meeting in Feb. 2023 - need for support for internal advocacy and LC's advocacy efforts with IRCC
 - Agreement reached regarding the need at the national level to quantify the contributions EAP/FAP programs make to the retention and success of international students
 - Research Design Group created and meeting to discuss the project took place in June and September 2023
 - Three research firms identified - project leads (Julian and Danielle) and LC met with the firms to select best fit for the project
 - Academica was selected and kick off meeting took place in Jan 2024

Research Objective

Understand
EAP/FAP
Program
Outcomes

To:

- Demonstrate the value of pathway programs to prospective students
- Tell a collective story about the impact of EAP/FAP to the sector and those within our own institutions

Project Overview



Phase 1:
Consultation &
Research Design



Phase 2:
Research Ethics



Phase 3:
Data Transfer,
Analysis & Reporting

Phase 1

Consultation & Research Design

- Review past research
- Recruit participating institutions
- Meet with institutional representatives

Phase 1 Deliverable: Detailed Research Method

Phase 2

Research Ethics

- Prepare & submit ethics application
- Track responses & coordinate REB requests

Phase 2 Milestone: All REB Approvals Received

Phase 3

Data Transfer, Analysis, and Reporting

- Collect data from each institution, merge
- Data cleaning and coding
- Analysis & report writing

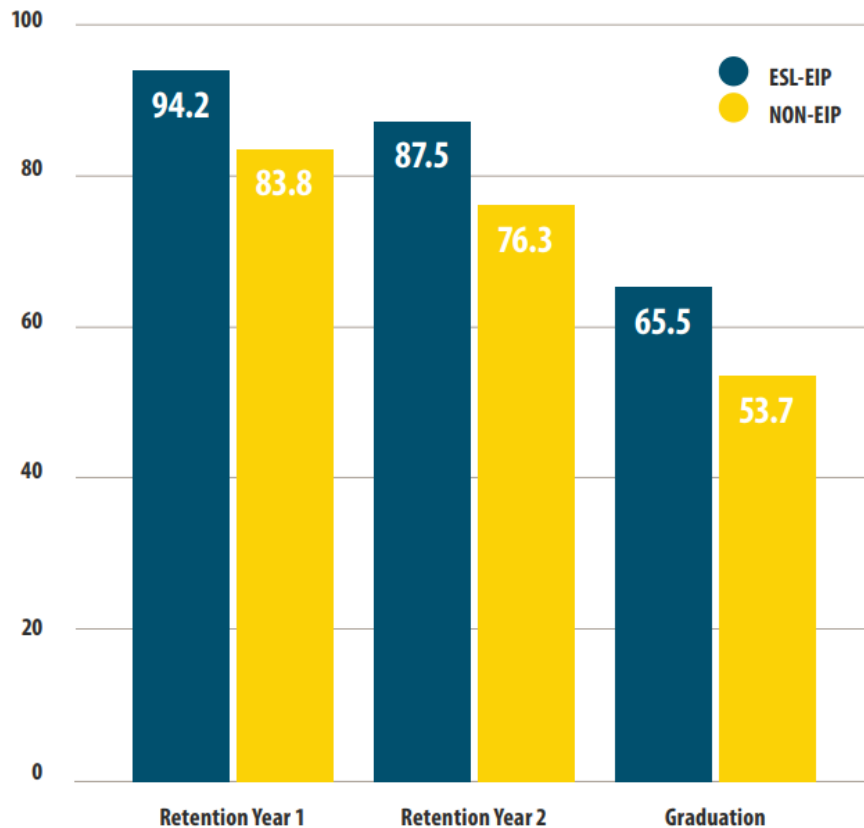
Phase 3 Deliverable: Final Report

Benefits & Uses of Data

- Internal advocacy – EAP/FAP student benefits:
 - student retention
 - revenue generation
 - higher student GPAs (in comparison to other international students)
 - quality students for the institution
 - diversity in the institution
- International marketing & recruitment
 - support recruitment efforts across diverse source countries

Case Study: University of Ottawa

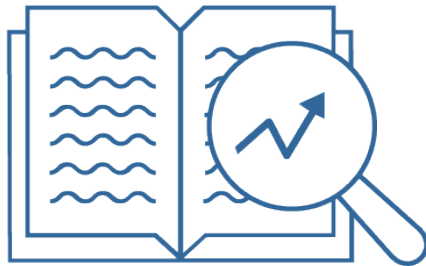
Table 1: Retention and graduation rates for international students



- International students who completed the pathway program were 12% more likely to graduate in the time it normally takes them to complete their programs than their peers who didn't complete the pathway.

- An additional comparative study focused on international students admitted to the Faculty of Social Sciences, primarily studying economics, showed that international students who had completed the pathway program were 11% less likely to be academically at risk after completing 15 units (i.e. credits) than international students who did not complete the pathway program.

Existing Research



- We're looking for recent reports about EAP/FAP learner outcomes
 - Learner surveys
 - Administrative learner data
- Email to julie@academicagroup.com

Timing

Task	Timing
Phase 1: Consultation and Research Design	
Recruit participating institutions	By March 29
Review previous research	March
Participation agreement with each institution	April
Milestone: Agreements signed	By April 26
Meeting with project leads and IR	By May 17
Prepare detailed research plan	May 17 to June 12
Milestone: Research plan finalized	By June 12
Phase 2: Research Ethics	
Application preparation (Option 1)	Begin in June
Milestone: All REBs submitted	By July 31
REB response tracking	August - September
Milestone: All REB approvals received	By October 15
Phase 3: Data Transfer, Analysis & Reporting	
Data transfer	By November 15
Combined data file preparation	November
Analysis	December
Report preparation	December
Milestone: Draft report delivered	By December 20
Report edits	
Milestone: Final report delivered	By January 31

How to Participate

- Seeking 10 institutions
 - Varied institution type, size, and region
- Requirements
 - Liaise with internal stakeholders and the project team
 - Lead the REB application process (with support from Academica)
 - Coordinate the data transfer

Questions

- What are the key outcomes for EAP/ESL students that you measure?
 - Or would like to measure?
- What challenges have you experienced in accessing the data needed to measure outcomes?
- Who are the internal champions you have or can draw on for support?

Discussion

Thank you!

Dr. Danielle Freitas

Associate Dean, English Language Institute
Fanshawe College
dfreitas@fanshawec.ca

Julian Inglis

Associate Director, ESL
Brock University
julian.inglis@brocku.ca

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Vice President Research
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julie@academicagroup.com