

PELA: The lived experience

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Post entry language assessment (PELA) has been embraced by a number of Australian universities as a way to understand what entry level prerequisites mean in regard to the language skill levels of 'new to course students', identification of students who will need additional support and also meet their TEQSA requirements. This can result in outcomes that position the PELA in highly contested ways.

In 2013 Curtin developed its English Language Policy and the PELA (writing diagnostic) became mandatory for all new to Curtin students. At the Faculty of Business and Law we have been administering the PELA and the associated language intervention SUCCESS since 2014. In this presentation we will talk about the daily challenges and rewards of this complex undertaking. We will consider:

- the PELA process at Curtin
- postgraduate and undergraduate PELAs
- the need for relationship building
- feedback from students and staff participating in PELA and SUCCESS
- data showing the relationships between PELA scores and success at university.