Zoe Tucker and Aida Barnhoorn talk new MyLO

Zoe and Aida both work on the Direct Entry Academic Program (DEAP) in the English Language Centre which is part of the Centre for University Pathways and Partnerships (UPP). Both are English Language Teachers.

The program is for students who have already met the academic conditions of their chosen degree but who have not yet met the English-language requirement.

Zoe and Aida are using new MyLO for their unit and teaching students how to use it.

**When did you start using MyLO?**
We started using new MyLO in August and currently have approximately 170 students enrolled on the system. It was really important for us to prepare early because we have around 20 teaching staff and 11 different classes across two campuses in the one unit.

It was a bit daunting being faced with the decision to set up the unit from scratch or base it on an old MyLO unit. We chose to base it on our old unit which was a good decision for us - although it did still require a fair bit of work.

We were fortunate in that we were able to access help from MyLO educators which was specific to our needs. Faculty-based and one-on-one training are worthwhile because everyone uses MyLO differently and it is useful to have assistance.

**How has new MyLO become a part of your teaching program?**
It is important for our students to learn how to use new MyLO before they embark on a degree and we offer support in a range of ways to help them achieve this.

We generally don’t use new MyLO as a teaching tool in the classroom - more as a support mechanism for assessment and to allow them to monitor their own performance. We also put a lot of content on there that students need to access as part of the course.

Our lectures are recorded and put online with powerpoint slides. This helps students if they miss a lecture or need more time to absorb the content or language.

We have our own powerpoints with voiceovers as a demonstration on how to use new MyLO for students and we run 15-20 minute MyLO familiarisation sessions for new students.

**What tools have you used and what do you really like?**
We use a lot of functions including dropbox, streaming and quizzes and

The MyLO team recommends that you start creating content and activities for your MyLO unit around four weeks prior to the commencement of semester.

Given the Christmas break, this means that most staff teaching Semester 1 or Semester 3 will now be creating unit content.

During this stage, you may have existing content on your desktop computer that you wish to upload.

You might start building activities like assessment tasks and discussion forums. You might also be moving content from a Previous Delivery unit into your new MyLO unit.

Learn to use relevant MyLO tools
A range of step-by-step guides are available for most tools. You will find these guides on the Learning and Teaching with MyLO website, listed by category or listed in alphabetical order.
The News function is an easy and effective way of keeping in touch with students.

One of the tools we really like is Grades. It simplifies reporting - grades are entered automatically and are easily accessible. A student’s mark in this unit is really important because their grade determines whether they are eligible to be admitted to their degree courses.

How have you and your team found new MyLO? Overall the transition to new MyLO has been a positive experience. It is easy to navigate and our unit is functioning well. Preparation is really important and we recommend allowing plenty of time to get used to the new system just in case things don’t go to plan.

We have encountered some challenges. The email function doesn’t seem to be as easy to use in new MyLO but we are getting used to how it works.

Most of the unit transferred to new MyLO well, with the exception of some of our quizzes. The program includes a lot of vocab and grammar tests online and the format of the tests didn’t translate well when migrated. It took a fair bit of work to resolve that, so we were pleased we had allowed plenty of time.

Students and staff have been quick to learn new MyLO.

Do you have any advice for people who are starting to use new MyLO? Setting up a unit or transitioning to new MyLO takes time. It is quite different and staff need training in order to use it effectively.

If you have the opportunity to arrange Faculty based training you should take it up - it is worthwhile and can be tailored to your needs.

It would probably help new users to start with a few functions and manage those first and then integrate others as they are needed.

Click here for MyLO contact details if you would like to request training or seek help.

Teaching Matters is the major showcase for learning and teaching at the University of Tasmania.

The theme for the 2012 conference this year is Sustaining Futures: Considering sustainability across the learning and teaching divide.

The MyLO Project will have a drop-in information area at Teaching Matters to help teaching staff move to new MyLO, overcome challenges and maximise the benefits of teaching online.

Drop in and say hi to the MyLO team in the Architecture Lobby, School of Architecture and Design, Inveresk Campus, Launceston on Tuesday 4 December 2012 between 10:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Independent Learning Objectives can be created in order to demonstrate to students the link between a unit’s intended learning outcomes and each of the respective assessment tasks.

This resource outlines how to create an Independent Learning Objective.