

Name: **Katherine Taylor**

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Biography

Kate has been a teacher for over 30 years. She has worked at Leeds University since 2006 supporting international students at all levels to develop their academic literacy. In 2014 she was tasked with creating a discrete programme of provision for PhD students, which she continues to manage within the Language Centre; but is now also seconded to the University's training organisation to integrate and enhance writing development provision for both home and international PGRs; and to build the capacity of staff to respond more effectively to the needs of an increasingly diverse student body. She completed a part-time PhD in lifelong learning in 2017 and continues to pursue research interests in everyday and practice-based learning.

Discussion: Language Mediation and the Doctoral Space

Abstract:

As an EAP practitioner in the context of an increasingly internationalised British university, I am still anchored in a Language Centre and continue to work directly with (both home and international) doctoral students, supporting their language development and acting as an intermediary to bridge their move into UK Higher Education and/or the transition from taught to research status.

However, I am also now partly seconded to the university's organisational development and professional learning service, with a remit to share my EAP and intercultural expertise with academic colleagues in order to facilitate the development of their own mediation strategies and thereby enhance their capacity to respond, within their disciplines, to the increasingly diverse needs of their doctoral students.

Place and space are emerging as significant in making sense of this work, as I (physically) shuttle back and forth across campus in my attempts to open up (figurative and physical) space to encourage more inclusive conditions in which to undertake a PhD.

After briefly presenting my own work-in-progress, I would like to use this forum to facilitate a discussion amongst "critical friends" engaged in similar work, in order to further develop our practice and thinking.