Using a MOOC to scaffold student learning: A development and teaching project within academic writing in English

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The emergence of MOOCS in the past decade has opened up fresh avenues for educators to deliver teaching content in pedagogical and innovative ways. The popularity of MOOCs is evidenced by the fact that many universities have taken advantage of this new course format which offers possibilities to democratise education by making knowledge freely available to all. Further to this ideological basis is the suggestion that MOOCs offer potential for increased visibility and can help universities to market themselves in light of mounting financial pressures and decreasing student numbers (e.g., Allen & Seaman, 2014; Holland & Tirthali, 2014; EADTU, 2016). Lund University offers eight MOOCs which are hosted by a major MOOC platform provider, Coursera. One of these recently developed MOOCs is *Writing in English at University,* which now has over 34,000 enrolled learners. In line with outcomes mentioned by a Swedish Higher Education Authority report some of the motivations behind producing the MOOC were to provide more flexible learning opportunities, enhance teaching efficiency, and improve student learning and performance (Universitetskanslersämbetet, 2016). We were tasked with developing this academic writing MOOC with the prerequisite that it could be used as a supplement to classroom-based courses at the English Unit, and beyond. Upon developing the course we began to explore ways in which we could effectively incorporate MOOC material into our existing courses. In this presentation we introduce our MOOC and discuss how we have used it to scaffold learning in a variety of ways across our academic writing courses. These examples range from directing students to the MOOC for self-study, to using the course material to enhance both formative and summative feedback on writing, to a more highly structured integration of the MOOC into our own writing courses using flipped-classroom techniques. The hope is that this presentation will give other university educators insight into using MOOC material in on-campus courses, and also to raise awareness of the benefits and challenges of doing so.

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