

# *Is EAP Necessary? A Survey of Hong Kong Undergraduates*

Ken Hyland  
*City University of Hong Kong*

*This essay presents the results of an investigation of student perceptions of English in tertiary study. Based on the questionnaire responses of 1600 undergraduates at five Hong Kong universities, it examines the importance students attribute to English, their major difficulties with the language, and the value they place on EAP classes. The results show that students recognize the value of English in academic success, but responses indicate considerable variability across disciplines, proficiencies, and years of study, both in the extent to which they value EAP and the confidence students have in their ability to meet the English demands of their studies. The findings have implications for language teachers in syllabus planning and may prove useful in sensitizing students and faculty lecturers to the significance of language in undergraduate study.*