

TEACHER OF ENGLISH REFRESHER COURSE



Erasmus+

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

Research in ELT can be fast moving; our course presents innovations in methodology and advances in practical uses of ICT in the classroom. We present the course content so that teachers can immediately see the benefits in their own classroom, and we discuss practical applications for teachers' own contexts. We work with teachers' existing knowledge, consolidate such knowledge and update teachers' skills. The programme will consist of a 2 week course of methodology & strategy update for teachers of English. The aim of the course week course will be to develop and broaden participants' understanding of *motivation*, *learner autonomy* and effective *second language acquisition*. The course will also help to develop new pedagogical methods or curricula.

PREPARATION (PRE-COURSE):

All participants should be ready and willing to share their teaching experiences with others. They also will need a basic knowledge of computers. Some background information on the traditions and cultural aspects of Ireland would be part of the course. Participants will be required to do some pre-course reading and tasks in preparation for the course. Participants will also be required to do a pre-course reflection on their experience of teaching so far. As the underlying ethos of our approach is 'student centred' and so we suggest participants read around 'learner autonomy', 'motivation', and the lexical approach.

Suggested authors: Michael Lewis, David Little, Ema Ushioda and Zoltán Dörnyei

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Broadened their understanding of 'student centred' approaches
- Developed their skills as teachers with regard to speaking skills, understanding the learner and understanding teacher roles
- Learnt from others' experiences through sharing professional experiences
- Explored some of the innovations in language teaching, such as using ICT to support student learning
- Developed communication skills
- Explored some of the different aspects of Irish culture

METHODOLOGY:

Approaches include observations, materials workshops, peer-to-peer planning, and journal work. There is an addiction 'blended-learning' element to the course, which students can also benefit from after the course is complete. The sessions are conducted face-to-face and will have a practical focus, in that, teachers will be expected to reflect on their experiences. Teachers will then use their experiences and those of their peers to develop their skills in a group framework. Teachers return to their classrooms equipped with new skills and material to use with their students.

TRAINERS:

All of our teachers are native English-speaking university graduates, most holding post-graduate qualifications in TEFL, many have wide-ranging and diverse work experiences gained locally and internationally.

COURSE DETAILS

The course runs 1 or 2 weeks from Monday to Friday – 20 hours per week

We incorporate ICT into each course, both during the course and afterwards.

Course participants must have a minimum of B2 English language proficiency

Participants also have the opportunity to enjoy an optional cultural programme in the afternoons, or to enjoy free time to explore Dublin

SESSION OUTLINE – SAMPLE TIMETABLE

Week 1 - Monday

- Course Intro/Getting to know you
- History and development of ELT
- Learner autonomy and motivation – an introduction
- ELT research trends

A chance for participants to share information about themselves, their jobs and their opinions on teaching. Participants will also be introduced to some new ideas for first lessons (or alternatively, fluency focused lessons) which they can use with their own learners.



Week 1 - Tuesday

- Language awareness – an introduction
- Classroom issues – debate
- Foreign Language lesson

A chance for the participants to sit on the other side of the desk and feel what their learners feel. A new appreciation of the learners' experience guaranteed (plus, you get to learn some Irish!)



Week 1 - Wednesday

- Classroom observations
- Reflection
- Classroom issues – workshop

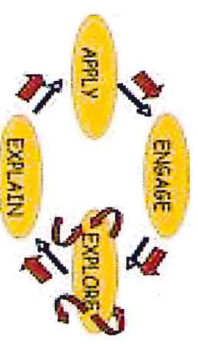
Share your favourite skills lessons and learn some of ours; lots of practical ideas to bring home.



Week 1 - Thursday

- Materials/lesson planning workshop – integrating the traditional with ICT
- Language awareness – how much grammar is too much grammar?
- Grammar follow-up

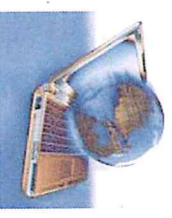
There are many approaches about getting the right balance between the traditional classroom and using ICT - here you will see them in action and discuss which ones are appropriate for your classes and your teaching style.



Week 1 - Friday

- Learner Based Teaching
- Motivation – what really works?
- Vocabulary and extensive reading projects
- Week 1 review

One of the most effective ways to increase your learners' motivation; discover a multitude of ways to include your learners needs and interests in your lessons.

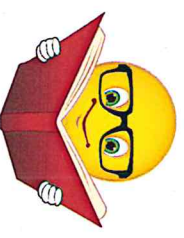


SESSION OUTLINE – SAMPLE TIMETABLE

Week 2 - Monday

- Language awareness – the Lewis approach to the verb system
- Morpheme acquisition theory – this explains it all!
- Journal and forum introduction

Discover new theories on how lexis is learned and uncover useful activities for the classroom.



Week 2 - Tuesday

- Blogging in the classroom – supporting students' learning
- Classroom management – making the most of student interactions
- Irish Culture

Another method to increase learner autonomy and incorporate all styles of learning, we discuss projects that have been successful and those that were unsuccessful - decide for yourself if they would work with your classes.



Collect some authentic Irish materials, organise them into a lesson and share it with your fellow participants. Also, learn some of our own teachers' favourite Irish based lessons and bring home plenty of ideas and materials for your learners.

Week 2 - Wednesday

- Testing and assessment – the CEFR and beyond
- Student portfolios
- Journal and forum development
- Classroom observations

Share your favourite skills lessons and learn some of ours; lots of practical ideas to bring home.



Week 2 - Thursday

- Classroom issues - workshop
- Innovative approaches to speaking skills
- Integrating the skills

Everyone has a favourite grammar lesson - share your favourite ideas and techniques for teaching grammar; learn from the collective years of experience in the room.



Week 2 - Friday

- Peer collaboration – fostering learner autonomy
- Workshop and debates
- Course review

One of the most effective ways to increase your learners' motivation; discover a multitude of ways to include your learners needs and interests in your lessons.

