

Course structure

You will receive 130 hours of timetabled instruction over a four-week period. There are five mandatory units that incorporate all the required learning components. The units are:

Unit 1. Teaching skills

Unit 2. Language awareness (grammar and phonology)

Unit 3. The learner profile

Unit 4. The materials assignment

Unit 5. Unknown language

Unit 1 Teaching skills

You will receive 20 input sessions that cover methodology, classroom management skills, lesson planning, a variety of teaching techniques, young learners, adapting course books, and the teaching of listening, speaking, reading and writing in a communicative context. All of the input sessions for this unit will be delivered via a combination of lecture, demonstration and workshop forms of presentation. You will learn to self-evaluate your strengths and weaknesses and how you are developing as a teacher.

Teaching Practice

All trainees will teach for 6 hours. Teaching practice starts on the fourth day of the course. This allows you adequate time to digest the initial input sessions and plan for your first lesson. You will be split into teaching groups so that you can help each other with planning and observe your fellow trainees teach. You will teach students from the beginner to pre-intermediate levels, all the while being observed by a course tutor. After your lesson you will be given feedback and guidance by the tutor.

Unit 2 Language awareness

This unit aims to teach you how to recognize the relationship between the *form* and *function* of grammar. For example, the grammatical form of the word *table* is a *noun*, while *run* is a verb, and *short* is an adjective. Form is sometimes called 'parts of speech'. Grammatical function describes how a word works in a sentence. For example, *the boy kicked the ball*. The word *boy* is functioning as the subject of the sentence. For second language learners, when grammar is placed in a communicative context it helps add a structure to their thoughts and how best to express them.

You will also study phonology, and learn techniques to help make student's pronunciation of words sound more natural.

Unit 3 Learner profile

You will work closely with one student to build up a simple profile of their language strengths and weaknesses. After interviewing the student and gathering language samples you will then prepare and teach 2 one-on-one lessons based on the student's language needs. This unit requires you to draw upon the grammar and phonology learnt in unit 2.

Unit 4 Materials assignment

You will receive input on the design and adaptation of teaching materials. Based on this input, you will be expected to create a range of teaching materials that cover the four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing for use during your teaching practice sessions. You will then have to select two pieces of material as the focus for a written assignment.

Unit 5 Unknown language

You will experience what it is like to be a student of an unknown language at the beginner level. You will be encouraged to reflect upon the communicative nature of the lessons and how the teaching techniques helped you learn the target language.