



"We make learning special"

Materials Development for ELT

Who is the course suitable for?

This course can be taken either as a module in our MAPDLE programme or as a short course in its own right. It is suitable for any teacher who has to produce her/his own materials for classroom use or for anyone who wishes to gain a practical grasp of the principles and practice of materials development in language teaching. Though the course is primarily targeted at teachers of English, it is also open to teachers of other languages, provided that they have a suitable level of English (at least C1 on the Common European Framework of Reference or equivalent).

What are the aims of the course?

To develop

- participants' critical awareness of the theories of language acquisition and language pedagogy which are potentially applicable to materials development;
- participants' ability to formulate and apply principled criteria for the evaluation and adaptation of language learning materials;
- participants' expertise in the different aspects of materials development (e.g. text selection and exploitation, the writing of instructions, the use of illustrations, the design and layout of a unit etc);
- participants' ability to work both independently and in a team to produce a variety of different types of effective language learning materials;
- participants' ability to articulate the principles, objectives and procedures of materials which they produce

What will the course include?

All course participants receive a pre-course questionnaire, which should be returned prior to the course. This is to ensure that the areas of most relevance to participants are covered. However, it is expected that course content will be drawn from the following broad topic areas which will be fine-tuned to meet participants' needs and interests:

- Second language acquisition and its implications for materials writing
- Language teaching pedagogy and its realisation in materials
- Needs analysis as a starting point for materials development
- Materials evaluation
- Materials adaptation
- Materials editing
- Materials design (including principles of task design)
- Materials writing (including working with authentic materials)

Participants will assemble a portfolio of materials collected and developed during the course for use in their own teaching contexts back home. They will be asked to present these materials to an audience of peers during the last 2/3 days of the course. Time will be built into the course for reflection and for participants to consider how to adapt ideas from the course to classrooms in their own context.

How long is the course and what approach is used?

The 50-hour course provision includes intensive tuition by trainers who are experts in the field of Materials Development, as well as opportunities for reading and research and guest lectures from well-known figures in the field of ELT. Classes will be practical and 'hands-on' but with reference to relevant theory. Classes are held from Monday to Friday and take place as detailed in the course-specific timetable but always within the hours 0915 – 1715. NILE course participants have free access to an extensive ELT library and a modern suite of computers with a broadband Internet link. The NILE course venues have a wireless (Wi-Fi) environment.