

E-TEACHER ONLINE COURSES THAT TRAIN FOREIGN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFESSIONALS IN THE LATEST AMERICAN METHODS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING VIA DISTANCE EDUCATION

- Participation is open to teachers worldwide
- The 10-week courses will be offered in the fall of 2012 and the winter, spring, and summer of 2013, though not all nine courses will be offered each term. Tuition and materials will be paid by the Department of State. Twenty-six of the E-Teacher course participants will be selected to attend a three-week professional development workshop in the U.S. in the summer of 2013.
- The deadline for submitting nominations is July 31, 2012.
- Participants are English teaching professionals who receive instruction in the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques
- Participants use innovative distance learning technology to interact with U.S. experts.

Recruitment:

Candidates for E-Teacher scholarships should be teacher trainers or teachers who are working, or plan to work, with one of the nine subjects covered by the courses. They should be highly motivated individuals who are dedicated both to their own professional development and to sharing the knowledge gained with colleagues through workshops or professional presentations. Candidates should also be committed to fulfilling the program requirements (***dedicating on average 8-10 hours of work per week***) and completing the course. In addition, candidates should meet the following criteria:

1. English language skills:

- Ability to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a minimum TOEFL score of 550 or IBT score of 79-80);
- General understanding of technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet;
- Good command of the necessary vocabulary for the topic of the course for which the candidate is nominated.

2. Computer fundamentals:

- Regular access to e-mail and the Internet (in some cases, Post may need to help arrange for regular computer access);
- Ability to navigate in Windows or other appropriate programs and create a Word document;
- Basic familiarity with the Internet and web browsers;
- Ability to type in English well enough to perform online tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Participant costs are covered through a cooperative agreement between the Department of State and the consortium of U.S. institutions that conduct the program (University of Maryland, Baltimore County, University of Oregon, etc). This includes tuition and the costs of any course materials sent from the institution, including CD-ROMs and books, for each participant.

Course materials will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Downloadable or posted syllabi, assignments, and course readings;
- Asynchronous contact between instructors and participants, between other experts and participants, and among participants;
- Lectures via real-time, text, or audio-enhanced text;
- Use of a bulletin board to post notes, assignments, feedback, etc.;

- Information on additional web-based resources;
- Resources for English teachers.

Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a **certificate of completion** directly from the course providers.

Individual course descriptions - October 1, 2012 through April 1, 2013

1. *Introduction to Online Learning*

Designed to teach necessary technology to teachers with no tech background, the teachers will be learning introductory methodology through the foundation of technology. [This is an **optional course, 5 weeks in length**. It's intended for EFL educators who are new to online learning. Successful alums of this course are eligible to take a 10-week E-Teacher course in the following academic year.]

Requirements:

- a. High Intermediate to Advanced English
- b. Inexperienced or Experienced In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Illiterate
- d. Works with Children, Youth, or Adults.
- e. Eligible for 10-week E-Teacher course in FY 2013

2. *Practical Applications in Listening and Speaking Skills [formerly ATDOP]*

Designed to improve the oral/aural English language proficiency and teaching methodologies. The course pioneers new technologies and pedagogical practices for teaching oral English skills via synchronous and asynchronous sessions.

Requirements:

- a. Intermediate English (NOT Advanced)
- b. In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Literate (knowledge of email, web browsers, and file management)
- d. Works with Children, Youth, or Adults.

3. *Introduction to Pedagogy and Practices for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL Methods)*

This course is designed to provide participants with current methodologies associated with teaching English language learners (ELLs) of different ages in various learning contexts. Participants will discuss and practice a wide variety of strategies and techniques for teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL). While exploring best practices for teaching English, participants learn how to create an effective and communicative language classroom for all ELLs. In addition, participants will examine what best practices means in the context of teaching English in the 21st century, where the use of English incorporates modern technologies. This course is based partially on the OELP "Shaping the Way We Teach English" materials.

Requirements:

- a. High Intermediate to Advanced English
- b. Inexperienced In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Literate (knowledge of email, web browsers, and file management)
- d. Works with Children, Youth, or Adults.

4. Critical Thinking in Language Learning and Teaching (CT)

This course is designed to deepen participants' understanding of the theory and applied use of Critical Thinking principles and practices in the EFL classroom by engaging in the following types of activities.

- a. Read and discuss professional information and articles to develop a deeper understanding of current topics in language pedagogy as they relate to general critical thinking skills.
- b. Identify, evaluate, and select web-based materials and tools for use in the classroom.
- c. Interact with colleagues regionally and internationally who share similar pedagogical interests. Create classroom materials and projects that demonstrate an understanding of course topics. Adapt and enhance existing materials so that they are culturally and age appropriate for their schools' local curriculum.

Requirements:

- a. High Intermediate to Advanced English
- b. In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Literate (knowledge of email, web browsers, and file management)
- d. Works with Children, Youth, or Adults.

5. Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL)

English learners at the primary level (approximately ages 5-10) are cognitively "primed" to acquire language skills in ways that lend themselves well to an integrated skills and content-based, experiential approach. The educator who understands the cognitive and social processes of second language acquisition for Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL) is better equipped to help the learner navigate the processes of classroom learning activities while also creating a fun, positive environment. In many cases, TEYL educators in English as a Foreign Language settings have a limited amount of time to accomplish their teaching goals and meet local requirements regarding the use of specific texts, tests or other materials. A low-resource environment can also pose challenges. In this course, participants have the opportunity to explore solutions for such challenges through an overview of current research and "best" practices (always context-dependent) for TEYL plus hands-on experimentation with a wide array of freely available online and local resources.

Requirements:

- a. High Intermediate to Advanced English
- b. In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Literate (knowledge of email, web browsers, and file management)
- d. Works with Young Learners 5-12 years old.

6. Assessment: Summative and Formative Practices in Language Learning and Teaching

This course will involve participants with the theory and practice of the major components of assessment, with a particular focus on English as a foreign language and addressing all four skill areas. Assessment topics covered include needs assessment, diagnostic, proficiency, achievement, formative, alternative, summative, standardized, strength-based, and differentiated. Participants will also explore aligning assessment to behavioral objectives and course goals, giving learners effective and helpful feedback, developing rubrics and tests, evaluating assessment with item analysis, and looking at reliability and validity. Articles and other readings give participants a firm foundation in assessment theory, and they will put theory into practice with an array of weekly practical applications, assignments, discussions, and tasks that include creating different types of assessments and feedback. The course will end with an assessment project organized as a WebQuest.

Requirements:

- a. High Intermediate to Advanced English
- b. Experienced In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Literate (knowledge of email, web browsers, and file management)
- d. Works with Children, Youth, or Adults.

7. Building Teaching Skills through the Interactive Web (Web Skills)

Participants in this course deepen their understanding of the theory and applied use of CALL principles and practices in the EFL classroom. The course will model innovative online teaching practices, enable participants to understand and use appropriate technology to enhance learning outcomes for their students, and offer opportunities to share real-world applications of technology tools and practices. The course will provide educators with support and problem-solving mechanisms as they implement technology and act as a train-the-trainers model so that participants can move forward after the course with concrete dissemination plans.

Requirements:

- a. High Intermediate to Advanced English
- b. Experienced In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Literate (knowledge of email, web browsers, and file management)
- d. Works with Children, Youth, or Adults.

8. Special Education and Differentiated Instruction in EFL Contexts (SpEd TEFL)

This course is designed to be a survey of teaching methods that support learners with special needs within the context of the TEFL classroom. Participants will read articles, visit websites and discuss practices that provide teaching strategies for diverse learners with a wide variety of skills and varying levels of performance. The focus is placed on inclusive teaching models, with exploration of the current best practices. As a community of professionals, participants will engage in ongoing dialogue, sharing their experience, success and concerns in their teaching. A support system will be established with exposure to resources found within individual teaching communities and external locations such as online forums and information centers. Emphasis will be placed on the creation of a resource to take

back for sharing among participants' local communities (e.g., classroom, school-wide basis, parents or larger community).

Requirements:

- a. High Intermediate to Advanced English
- b. Experienced In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Literate (knowledge of email, web browsers, and file management)
- d. Works with Children, Youth, or Adults.

9. English for Specific Purposes, Aligning Context with Practices and Materials (ESP)

This online course will develop participants' skills in designing, implementing and evaluating English for Specific Purposes (ESP) courses based on best practices in the field. Because the foundation of this course is in best practices, new and experienced ESP practitioners are welcome from all areas of the field. Course participants may be addressing the needs of pre-experienced learners (preparing to enter a specific discourse community) who need:

- (1) English for Academic Purposes (EAP) for courses in specific disciplines in universities, or
- (2) Vocational English for Specific Purposes (VESP) for courses at vocational and technical secondary schools.

Other course participants might be focused on English for Occupational Purposes (EOP) courses in the business sector or other fields that are intended for pre-experienced or experienced learners already in the workplace who need English as a tool for their job. Regardless of which ESP target learner population is the focus (EAP, VESP or EOP), the target learners are usually adults with an intermediate level of English or higher. The course will also address the need for training in English for Specific Purposes to promote education and economic development at the local and national levels.

Requirements:

- a. High Intermediate to Advanced English
- b. Experienced In-Service Teacher
- c. Tech Literate (knowledge of email, web browsers, and file management)
- d. Works with Secondary or Post Secondary levels.