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Creative Teaching in the Secondary and Adult English Language Classroom

Course provider **The Lake School of English Oxford** (Partner or Receiving Organisation)
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Course Provider Profile

The Lake School of English is an independent, private English language school, which offers courses in professional development for people working in education: teachers, heads of department or school, teacher trainers, managers, project coordinators, administrators and other support staff. The School welcomes adults of all abilities and nationalities. Every year, the School teaches hundreds of students from approximately 40 different countries.

The Lake School of English was established in 1978. It is situated in the centre of Oxford. During the academic year (September – June), professional development courses take place at the Lake School of English. Courses in July and August (except Intensive General English) take place at Oxford University Business School.

The Lake School is accredited by the BRITISH COUNCIL and is a member of ENGLISH UK and QUALITY ENGLISH, a group of established, independent schools who are carefully selected for their quality of student experience and their commitment to excellence in English language teaching. The Lake School also featured in the English Language Gazette as a leading Centre of Excellence 2010 – 2017.

Course tutors

Participants experience a dynamic and communicative style of teaching and receive personal attention from experienced and qualified professionals. Tutors use a wide range of up-to-date resources and integrate online and off-line resources to create a supportive, dynamic learning environment. At the Lake School, there are between 10 and 20 members of staff.

Course Objectives

To improve and extend the teaching techniques and English language ability of teachers at Secondary school level and teachers of young adults and adults.

Course methodology

Sessions are carefully planned to suit the needs, interests and learning preferences of the participants and to provide the right balance of skills, content and structure. They are practical and communicative and based on the needs of the participants. They include lively, interactive methodology sessions, so teachers can learn how to make their classes more communicative and effective and improve their learners' employability and future education prospects. Inspiring language improvement sessions are designed to develop teachers' confidence in English and discover strategies for self-directed learning.

In each session the tutor facilitates an awareness raising activity, followed by a discussion in which participants discuss and compare their classroom teaching experiences. The tutor presents practical and creative teaching techniques for Secondary and Adult learners based on a range of teaching methodologies and recent research into English language acquisition. Participants try out these techniques, discuss adaptations to their own teaching situations. The tutor presents strategies for encouraging communication, motivating students, managing large and/or mixed ability classes effectively, planning and follow-up activities.

In language improvement sessions, the tutor demonstrates, through loop input, how teachers can improve and update their students' grammar, lexis and pronunciation, as they improve their own. The minimum language level required is CEFR B2, therefore the nature of the course means that participants are often of mixed ability.

In all sessions the tutor indicates recently published subject-specific materials for further reading and/or classroom activities, also online and offline resources for further research and/or cultural background.

Course Content

Participants are asked to complete a pre-course questionnaire. Tutors plan the course to meet the needs of the course participants.

Course content typically includes:

Introductions, ice-breakers, warmers and fillers
Being a teacher; being a learner
Critical thinking; learning transferable skills
Developing personal language skills and communicative competence
Teaching grammar and making it fun
Understanding CLIL concepts; creating classroom activities
Songs and music in the English language classroom
Vocabulary, collocation and word partnerships
Teaching phrasal verbs
New words, idioms and the importance of language in context
Learning preferences, multiple intelligences
Teaching students with learning difficulties, inclusion and diversity in the language classroom
Classroom challenges; improving motivation, engagement and results
Writing, feedback and error correction
Working with texts; exploring and creating, engaging tasks
The British education system and visit to a secondary school or college
Practical pronunciation; phonemes, stress and connected speech
Revision and recycling activities
Blended learning, ICT and digital media
Using film and images as a creative stimulus

The course includes:

- 21 hours of session input per week
- a guided historical tour of Oxford
- a guided tour of an Oxford University college or punting on the River Thames
- a visit to a local education provider, where possible
- weekly social activities
- welcome pack and WiFi internet access
- course materials and 1-year's subscription to the Lake School [e-Learning Centre](#)
- free refreshments: tea, coffee and mineral water

Weekly Timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09.15 – 10.30	Welcome	Session	Session	Session	Session
10.30 – 10.50	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10.50 – 12.00	Session	Session	Session	Session	Session
12.00 – 12.15	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12.15 – 13.00	Session	Session	Session	Session	Session
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	Session	Cultural Activity	Session	Session	Free Afternoon
15.00 – 15.15	Break		Break	Break	
15.15 – 16.00	Session		Session	Session	

Outcomes

Teachers will have a wide range of practical teaching techniques to enable them to make their classes more effective. In particular, teachers will be able to:

- motivate and encourage their students to learn more effectively
- manage mixed ability and/or large classes
- use different teaching strategies to accommodate different learning preferences
- adapt coursebook materials to personalise students' language learning
- make their lessons more communicative and create their own teaching resources
- integrate authentic resources and new technologies into their teaching.

and specifically:

- use a range of introductory techniques with new classes and language concepts
- use a range of language recycling and error correction techniques
- use a variety of creative techniques with images, texts, dialogues and videos
- create activities to make content more meaningful and memorable
- integrate reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, including pronunciation

In addition, teachers will have:

- a portfolio of teaching materials including
 - aims of each classroom activity or teaching technique
 - bibliography for sessions, including relevant website addresses
 - photocopiable worksheets and cloud-based sources for downloads
 - promotional materials/resources from a range of publishers (where available)
- increased confidence in their own linguistic ability
- a network of new teaching contacts.

Follow up

Participants are required to fill in a course evaluation questionnaire. They are encouraged to continue the international dimension of their experience through social networking. They are invited to contribute to the Lake School Twitter feed: [@EnglishinOxford](#) and [#CreativeEnglishTeaching](#)

Participants receive a contact list of their course tutors and course colleagues. On some courses this also includes details of other contacts made during that particular course, such as editors, head teachers, publishers or guest tutors. Participants receive 1 year's subscription to the Lake School online e-Learning Centre, to build on and further develop the English language skills acquired in Oxford.

Certification and Europass Mobility

At the end of the programme, participants are provided with a certificate of attendance, outlining the number of hours and sessions they have attended, and a formal receipt of fees paid. Participants may also bring a Europass Mobility document with them, for validation by the Course Director.

Fees 2018

Creative Teaching in the Secondary & Adult English Language Classroom: 350 GBP + 75 GBP Enrolment Fee (1 week)
Creative Teaching in the Secondary & Adult English Language Classroom: 600 GBP + 75 GBP Enrolment Fee (2 weeks)

Accommodation

Homestay accommodation

Most course participants live in homestay accommodation. It's a great opportunity to talk and exchange cultures in a friendly home environment. They have their own key and complete independence.

Quite a lot of our homestays host more than one person at the same time. In this case, no guests speak the same first language. All hosts offer welcoming, clean and comfortable accommodation. Guests have breakfast and evening meal with the host/s during the week and all meals are provided at weekends, including packed lunch if requested. Some homes have accommodation with private bathroom.

Check in is the Sunday before the start of the course. Check out is the Saturday after the end of the course.

Homestay Accommodation	Details	Cost per week
Standard	Single room, half board (full board weekends)	£175
Standard Twin (only available for people booking together)	Twin room, half board (full board weekends)	£165
En-suite	Single room, private bathroom, half board (full board weekends)	£215
En-suite Twin (only available for people booking together)	Twin room, half board (full board weekends)	£205

Hotel or self-catering accommodation

Some course participants prefer to stay in hotel or self-catering accommodation. We can give advice and suggest some options. However, this must be booked and paid for by the course participant independently.

Accommodation Type	Details	Cost per week
Hotel	Single room, private bathroom, bed and breakfast	From £420
Self-catering	Furnished one or two-bedroom house or flat	From £450

Other expenses

A bus pass is approximately 20 GBP per week, giving unlimited travel in Oxford. Participants will also need money for personal expenses and weekday lunches.

Social activities and excursions

As well as the cultural and social activities that are included on the course, there are optional excursions to join at extra cost. These half-day or full-day guided tours are to places of interest such as London, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, Windsor and Blenheim Palace. Prices for these range between 30 and 45 GBP.

Travel arrangements

There is a direct express bus service from London Heathrow and Gatwick airports to the central bus station in Oxford. The cost is approximately 30 GBP return. A taxi from the bus station to homestay accommodation typically costs 10 - 15 GBP.

Please see http://www.englishinxford.com/before_you_arrive/getting_to_oxford.html for more information about travelling to Oxford.

Booking the course

Participants who are applying for Erasmus+ funding must contact the school as soon as they learn the result of their grant application so the course director can confirm availability and reserve a place.

To confirm a place, participants complete an [Enrolment Form](#) . The school then sends formal confirmation of enrolment and an invoice.

No fees are payable until participants receive funds from their National Agency.

Payments can be made by credit card or bank transfer.

At the end of the course, participants receive receipts/statements of fees paid, signed and stamped by the course director.

Participant testimonial

A brilliant teacher, a great school, a beautiful city!

Dagmar Szkarlat | Poland

Hands-on experience, very colourful, great insight into British culture. Fabulous, exciting and informative cultural activities and excursions.

Lazlo Molnar | Hungary