

Intercultural Awareness in ELT



Course Overview

Speaking a foreign language is not just about getting the vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation right. When we talk to someone from another culture, while there are similarities between us, we both bring with us differing attitudes, expectations and behaviours that may be surprising.

This 50-hour course will focus on links between contemporary culture and the English language to address some of the issues above, drawing on a wide range of authentic texts and illustrative material (e.g. advertisements, newspapers, literary texts, film and TV). You will be encouraged to examine language as a social and cultural phenomenon and will be exposed to techniques for dealing with cultural issues based on available research, materials and examples of best practice.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Teachers in all contexts interested in exploring the relationship between language learning and intercultural awareness
- Teachers who are interested in developing their own command of English
- Participants with a minimum language level corresponding to B2/C1 on the CEF

What will the course include?

As a course participant, you will receive a pre-course questionnaire, which should be returned prior to the course. This is to ensure that the areas of most relevance to you are integrated into the course content.

The course will include content drawn from some or all of the following areas, depending on your contextual and personal needs and priorities:

- Advanced language development
- Developing cultural awareness through language teaching
- Exploring language change
- Investigating language and cultural meaning
- Examining social and political influences on culture
- Looking at ethnic diversity and varieties of English
- Developing materials for specific cultural needs
- Exploring language and cultural identity
- Looking at culturally loaded language
- Investigating language and social class
- Conducting ethnographic research
- Looking at language in the media
- Exploring classroom approaches to integrating language and culture

Time will be built into the course for reflection and for you to consider how to adapt ideas from the course to the classroom in your own professional context.

All NILE's courses involve a significant element of English language improvement and/or development of language awareness.

How long is the course?

The 50-hour course provision includes intensive tuition by trainers who are experts in the fields of language and intercultural learning, as well as opportunities for reading and research and a guest lecture from a well-known figure in the field of ELT. Classes are held from Monday to Friday and take place as detailed in the course-specific timetable but always within the hours 0915 – 1715.

What approach is used?

- Classes will be practical and 'hands-on', but with reference to relevant theory.
- Courses are participant-centred involving tasks providing memorable learning contexts.
- 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 professional contexts.
- Tasks will be used to illustrate the key course objectives through procedure and content.
- The approach includes opportunities for exploring key and contemporary issues

Facilities and resources

The NILE course venue includes an extensive ELT library and computer suite with Wi-Fi throughout. Each course has a Moodle online learning platform which includes a comprehensive online library and enables you to access course materials and share ideas and materials with other course participants. This facility will be available to you for six months after the course so you can keep in touch with your colleagues and continue to access course materials once you have returned home.