

Testing, Evaluation and Assessment



Course Overview

Testing and assessment is a key aspect of education, often determining not just what is taught, but how.

In this 50-hour course you will understand the key principles of testing and evaluation and explore the range of options available to design robust and reliable evaluation tools. These will maximise student motivation and engagement appropriate to the needs of your educational context, as identified by all the stakeholders, including students and staff.

Who is the course suitable for?

- ELT professionals who are interested in:
 - understanding the key principles underlying good practice in TEA
 - developing the ability to write good test items
 - designing and producing a variety of assessment instruments
 - providing leadership in their institution in the field of TEA
 - managing their own continuing professional development in TEA
- Participants with a minimum language level corresponding to B2/C1 on the Common European Framework.

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 main strands of the course will be carefully integrated but will include attention to some or all of the following, depending on your contextual and personal needs and priorities:

- Looking at key issues in test design, construction and validation
- Exploring test purpose and test specifications
- Considering how to put principles into practice: producing good items and tests
- Looking into how to make testing and assessment coherent with teaching
- Looking into testing and assessing the full range of communicative skills
- Discussing testing and assessment of grammar and vocabulary
- Considering basic statistical issues in testing: item analysis and test evaluation
- Looking at qualitative research methods in practice
- Conducting a critical review of exams: what should we look for in an EFL exam
- Exploring the testing and assessing young learners
- Considering 'authentic' modes of assessment: self-, peer- and portfolio assessment
- Exploring testing and the new technology: the role of computers and the internet
- Exploring evaluation in ELT: key principles, different models for different objectives

Time will be built into the course for reflection and for participants to consider how to adapt ideas from the course to their own professional contexts.

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

What does the course consist of?

The 50-hour course provision includes intensive tuition by trainers who are experts in the field of testing, evaluation and assessment, as well as opportunities for reading and research and guest lectures from well-known figures 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
- Tasks will be used to illustrate the key course objectives through procedure and content
- The approach includes opportunities for exploring key contemporary issues in depth

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.