Blended Learning in Language Education
with Russell Stannard

Course Overview

Improving access to the internet has lead to increasing access both to knowledge and to the tools for using this knowledge. The result is not just changes in the kinds of education that teachers can provide, but the methods and materials that students expect to use. Yet, while much about education can change, there is also a need to retain much of what has gone before. We need to explore how to integrate online and computer-mediated education with that conducted face-to-face, teacher to student.

This 50-hour course aims to explore the opportunities for integrating different modes of education, using a variety of methods. It explores the tools and techniques for doing so, relating theory to practice in ways that teachers will find both effective and efficient.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Teachers of English and ELT professionals wishing to understand the role of blended learning in language education, for language learner and teacher development
- Teachers and other ELT professionals who wish to update their own knowledge and skills in the focus areas of this course
- Teachers and other ELT professionals with a minimum language level corresponding to B2 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 course will include content drawn from some or all of the following areas, depending on your contextual and personal needs and priorities:

- Exploring principles and practice of blending learning, including contemporary views
- Examining the role of technology inside and outside the classroom in blended learning
- Developing language and content knowledge in blended learning approaches
- Conducting evaluation of platforms and content for language learner development
- Designing activities, exercises, tasks and projects in blended learning approaches
- Making effective use of multimedia in language learner and teacher education
- Making effective use of Web 2.0 tools in language learner and teacher education
- Making effective use of approaches to blending online and face-to-face delivery

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.

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 is built around intensive tuition from trainers who are experts in the field of blended learning and also includes opportunities for reading and research, as well as 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.