
Unit Specifications: *School of TESOL*

Unit Title: Teaching Skills

Level: 5

Unit Description:

This unit covers methodology, teaching skills, teaching practice and related portfolio, guided observation and related journal, coursebook and materials evaluation, methods of assessment and testing in the classroom. This unit is considerably larger than other units as it involves the assessment of skills, knowledge and understanding developed in all areas, but demonstrated in an integrated fashion as appropriate to a dynamic learning environment. As this qualification prepares the candidate specifically for the initial stages of the teaching profession, greater guided learning hours are attached to Unit 1 to ensure the vocational validity, relevance and professional integrity of the qualification in relation to the standards set by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) and by other professional bodies internationally.

Indicative Content:

- an overview of basic TESOL methodologies in relation to the principal theories of language learning and acquisition, and learner needs
 - the design of a language learning programme to incorporate a variety of methods
 - the relationship between methodology and approach; strategies for planning a sequence of lessons to integrate the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening; identification of the grammatical, lexical and phonological components of a syllabus on an individual and integrated basis
 - assessment of learner needs with reference to lesson planning, remedial activity and error analysis
 - materials selection and analysis, including course books, supplementary and authentic materials including print, visuals, audio, video and ICT
 - the development of simple materials with specified aims for specific learners
 - trainee self-evaluation and evaluation by tutors
 - an overview of the main public exams in ESOL
 - the main forms of test most useful in assessing students' performance in English.
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Learning and Teaching Methods:

The learning outcomes will be assessed through the demonstration of a range of practical skills as below.

Lesson Planning (LP) — successful trainees must demonstrate the ability to:

- prepare appropriate aims/outcomes for a lesson or lessons and means of achieving them

Unit Specifications: *School of TESOL*

- identify the needs of different learners in monolingual/multilingual groups
- identify the learning preferences and motivation of learners
- understand and adopt different teaching methods and styles for different learner groups and individuals
- understand and develop a learner-centred approach in lesson planning
- balance the requirements of accuracy and fluency as aims in teaching

Lesson Execution (LE) — successful trainees must demonstrate the ability to:

- manage learners' behaviour to encourage confidence, creativity and co-operation with other learners
- balance teacher–learner and learner–learner participation
- give clear instructions
- deal with errors in an appropriate manner
- establish and maintain rapport
- organise and manage the classroom, including whole-class activity, pair, group and individual work
- use teaching aids (board, projector, audio-visual equipment, online materials) and ICT (e.g. interactive white board if available) to achieve learning aims
- adapt and use print materials effectively in whole or in part
- use authentic and self-generated materials as aids to learning
- use activities such as information gap, role play, songs, jazz chants and drama to achieve specified learning aims/outcomes

Post-lesson Reflection (PR) (face-to-face and written) — successful trainees must demonstrate the ability to:

- identify the degree to which lesson aims/learning outcomes were achieved or not achieved
- identify the perceived reasons for the above
- suggest adaptations of methods or materials for a future class/learners
- evaluate the effectiveness of materials
- assess the overall strengths and weaknesses of the lesson
- assess feasibility of lesson aims
- prioritise aspects of teaching to focus on in future lessons

The demonstration of these practical skills will be assessed in:

- teaching practice (planning, execution and reflection)
- the Teaching Practice Portfolio (planning and reflection)
- the Guided Observation Journal (reflection)

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit you will have demonstrated:

LO 1 | Understanding of, and ability to put into practice, current TESOL approaches, methodologies and management skills appropriate to lesson aims, and to the learners' background and learning objectives of how they meet learning requirements.

LO 2 | Ability to use materials and teaching aids with technical competence,

Unit Specifications: *School of TESOL*

imagination and awareness.

LO 3 Awareness of the key features required of course books and print materials in relation to presentation of form and function and appropriacy for the learner.

LO 4 Potential to assess their own strengths and weaknesses in order to benefit from further training and assist in the evaluation of their peers.

Information correct at point of publication.