

Materials Development in ELT



Course overview

Materials are increasingly seen as one of the cornerstones of effective teaching and learning. Being able to evaluate, adapt and design materials are vital teaching skills whatever context you may be teaching in.

This 50-hour course will help you understand both the theory and practice of materials development. It will take a systematic approach to understanding second language acquisition theory and how this emerges in materials. You will also understand the importance of context analysis when writing materials and you will gain a comprehensive understanding in the principles of course book evaluation and adaptation and finally materials design. It will explore the various micro-skills involved in materials development and will culminate in the creation of a portfolio of material for use in your specific contexts. The course will also investigate issues relating to task design and use of authentic materials.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Teachers who have to produce their own materials for classroom use
- Teachers who wish to gain a practical grasp of the principles and practice of materials development in language teaching.
- Participants with a minimum language level corresponding to B2/C1 on the Common European Framework

Though the course is primarily targeted at teachers of English, it is also open to teachers of other languages, provided that they have a suitable level of English (as above).

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:

- Second language acquisition and its implications for materials writing
- Language teaching pedagogy and its realisation in materials
- Needs analysis as a starting point for materials development
- Materials evaluation
- Materials adaptation
- Materials editing
- Materials design (including principles of task design)
- Materials writing (including working with authentic materials)

Participants will assemble a portfolio of materials collected and developed during the course for use in their own teaching contexts back home. They will be asked to present these materials to an audience of peers during the last 2/3 days of the course. 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 is built around intensive tuition from trainers who are experts in the field of materials writing and also includes opportunities for reading and research, as well as 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.
- 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.