

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES THROUGH LANGUAGE TEACHING

Course dates

11 July – 17 July

Course fees

€770

Course location

University of Limerick

Target audience

Native and non-native language teachers with some experience who teach children aged 11+, teenagers or young adults. Language teachers who have already addressed some global issues in their teaching but would like to learn about ways to move forward. You will need at least an advanced level of English (C1).

Course summary

If we want to bring up responsible citizens for the future, addressing sustainability must become part of education in general, including ELT. This course will open your eyes to sustainability issues and Sustainable Development Goals as specified and defined by UN. To do so you need psychology to deal with being in denial, and changing the mind-set of teachers, learners and people outside the class. You need leadership skills to convince and engage learners, and to make things happen. You need specific language skills to understand and teach the language of campaigns and politics, and you need language awareness to communicate your messages depending on the addressee. You need innovative techniques to make sustainability lessons special. This is primarily a methodology course which also includes a substantial language improvement element.



Course content

- Creating a powerful, motivated action group who will engage
- Recognizing your own and your learner's potential for triggering change
- Pooling popular knowledge of sustainability, and skillful scaffolding
- Sparking off enthusiasm and maintaining it
- Choosing and introducing sustainability issues in an unthreatening way
- Defining relevant goals for change and choosing a formula for implementing them
- Role models and examples to follow
- Examples of effective and ineffective practices
- Analysis of the language of campaigns and language to convince people
- Planning for networking, liaison and cooperation

Sample Programme

Please note this is an example of a daily programme. Course content may often be usefully adapted to incorporate the needs of each group member.

| Week 1 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.00-10.30 | Introductions. How to form an action group | Scaffolding for sustainability Making the seeds grow | Designing & conducting a sustainability survey, processing information | Language and vocabulary for sustainability | Presentation of projects |
| 11.00-12.30 | Needs analysis and choosing relevant, local topics. Using ICT | The language of campaigns and political discourse | Planning and conducting a field trip | Lessons from Greta Thunberg, Inga Zasowska Alexandria Ocasio Cortez | Feedback on project presentations |
| 14.00-15.30 | Inconvenient truths and presenting them in a positive way | Choosing a goal, and how to go about it | Choosing an expert, talking to an expert Interview techniques | Preparation of projects Choosing topics and presentation methods | Planning for the future and networking including e-twinning |

Recommended reading

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/PUB_29200_Creativity_UN_SDG_v4S_WEB.pdf

<https://old.hltnmag.co.uk/feb15/sart10.htm>

<http://old.hltnmag.co.uk/jun17/index.htm>

Type of certification awarded

Attendance certificate detailing topics covered, course content and the number of training hours.



Is this the right course for me?

Yes, if you wish to gain the skills to develop your students into activists

Yes, if you wish to explore a case study of project work and reflect on how you could use this in your teaching

Yes, if you have an interest in environmental studies and sustainability issues that you wish to explore with your students

Contact

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