

USING TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM – REF. OTC04

2 weeks. Minimum English language level B1

This 2 week course on Technology in the Classroom may be included in an application for Erasmus+ funding for training under Key Action 1 (KA1) – Mobility for School Education Staff)

Objectives

The primary objectives of this Technology in the Classroom course are

- to familiarise the participants with recent pedagogical and classroom technology developments in ELT
- to increase participants' skill and confidence in the use of some computer applications , particularly in an environment where many of the students are very digitally savvy
- to give participants an opportunity, as far as possible, to use all programmes to which they are introduced and to learn to adapt some ready-made programmes to their particular classroom requirements
- to provide an opportunity to develop and consolidate participants own language skills
- to establish contacts between teachers from a variety of European backgrounds and facilitate future networking among these professionals

Through the realisation of these objectives we aim to assist schools to address identified needs outlined in their European Development Plan and to re-inforce the capacities and international scope of the participating organisations.

Format

This course on using Technology in the Classroom is a two-week course consisting of 40 contact hours as well as 2 afternoon workshops and an extensive cultural and social programme directly linked to the morning sessions.

Methodology

The input sessions are a blend of theory and practice in ELT combining presentation, demonstration and practical activities to facilitate using and developing computer-based programmes.

During the 2 weeks they will also take part in afternoon activities where the participants are encouraged to develop their language skills in a more informal environment outside of the classroom and further enhance their knowledge of Ireland, with a focus on exploiting school trips in their own teaching environments to develop language skills.

Follow-up

On the final day of the course, the participants engage in a reflection session in which they are encouraged to examine benefits gained from the course. They then complete a course evaluation form. All participants on the course are encouraged to keep contact via email and private social networking. Alpha trainers are available for follow-up advice and support at all times.

To Apply for a Technology in the Classroom Course

To make application for Erasmus+ funding for this course or any of our other in-service training courses for teachers please visit your National Agency website for full information on the application process.

About Alpha College

Alpha College is an approved training centre for the ACELS/QQI Certificate in English Language Teaching (CELT) and has a staff of highly qualified, experienced and motivated teacher trainers who train prospective ELT teachers year-round. They are also practising teachers of English, experienced in using up-to-date methods with learners at all levels of language learning. In addition Alpha College is a full member of EAQUALS (European Association of Quality Language Services) and IALC (International Association of Language Schools) and has been providing in-service training courses for teachers from overseas for the last 16 years.

The most recent EAQUALS inspection took place in October 2015 and as a result of this 2-day inspection the Inspectors identified points of excellence in the following categories:

- Management and Administration
- Client Services
- Teaching and Learning
- Staff Profile and Development
- Course Design and Supporting Systems
- Internal Communications
- Assessment and Certification
- External Communications
- Academic Resources

Course Programme

Day One

- Induction and introduction to the course
- Cloud storage, file sharing and blogging. Trainees will create a private blog or group to be populated with information and assignments throughout the course.
- An orientation tour of Dublin to provide participants with an opportunity to practise their English in a more informal setting outside the classroom, familiarise themselves with the geography and history of the city and allow participants to collect authentic materials for use in the classroom.

Day Two

- Digital citizenship and literacy and methodological implications of integrating technology and teaching.
- Going over the basics – a run through of all the key skills necessary for all participants to take full advantage of the programme.
- Visit to the National Museum covering periods examined in the history session, exploiting and relating fieldwork to class work and collecting authentic materials.

Day Three

- Designing a lesson using and incorporating technology – preparing activities to engage computer literate students
- Workshop: designing lessons using and incorporating technology

- Trinity College. Introduction to third level education in Ireland. Contribution of Trinity alumni to Irish and international academic affairs. Book of Kells and influence of early Irish missionaries in Europe. Collecting authentic materials. Developing speaking through short presentations on universities of participants.

Day Four

- Exploring online quizzes, gap fill tools and dynamic materials
- Workshop: creating online quizzes, gap fill tests and online tools
- Guinness Storehouse. Collecting authentic texts describing processes.

Day Five

- The Flipped Classroom – students can watch pre recorded classes online at home as “homework” and do their exercises in class with the teacher
- Digital storytelling – free online tools used for digital storytelling.
- Supervised workshop – participants have the opportunity to get further practice on any of the resources viewed during the week under the supervision of one of the course tutors.

Day Six

- Using Google products and services effectively in the classroom – e.g.: Reader, Docs, YouTube, Maps, etc
- Workshop: using Google products to create engaging content and classes
- Chester Beatty library. Materials for developing writing skills in the classroom.

Day Seven

- Using audio & video podcasts to engage students with real world content
- Workshop: creating audio & video files for and with your students
- Cathedrals. History and influence of the main denominations in Ireland. Jonathan Swift.

Day Eight

- Creating slideshows, animations and cartoons using online tools
- Workshop: Using online animation and slideshow tools
- National Library. Materials for developing writing skills in the classroom. W.B. Yeats.

Day Nine

- Finding and using Authentic Materials online for use in the classroom
- Creating real world, hard copy project based material in the classroom
- Supervised workshop – participants have the opportunity to get further practice on any of the resources viewed during the week under the supervision of one of the course tutors.

Day Ten

- Recording material and activities from your computer screen
- Course review and evaluation. Implications for future practice. Establishment of base and guidelines for future contact and networking.

The excursion programme is designed to allow teachers create an online blog/closed group environment project about their time in Dublin and to give them more practical experience in creating and leading projects with their students.

Course Dates:

- 21st March 2016 1st August 2016 17th October 2016
- 10th April 2017 31st July 2017 16th October 2017
- (or by arrangement for closed groups)

Course Fees:

Programme including materials, excursions and activities as outlined in the programme -€750

Host Family Accommodation, standard, single room, half board

€350 for 2 weeks (October – June 2016)

€370 for 2 weeks (July and August 2016)

Student Self Catering Accommodation, Shanowen Hall: July and August only

€390 for 2 weeks. Single bedroom, private bathroom, shared kitchen/living room

Airport Transfers (optional)

arrival €70; departure €70