Learning Differences and Inclusion in Language Teaching

Course Overview:

In the language classroom we can be faced with teaching a variety of ages, cultures and learning backgrounds. As well as these more obvious differences, learners also come with their unique ways of learning. Therefore, all learners, including those with specific learning differences, may benefit from a variety of teaching strategies. Tapping into this and teaching learners in the way that they learn best is often a daunting task. This course takes a practical approach, looking at ways of engaging learners across a multitude of levels using multi-sensory learning techniques.

This 50-hour course looks at specific learning differences that we may encounter in our classrooms, and also engages with the hotly-debated issue of 'learning styles'. The sessions are underpinned by theoretical considerations, though the principle aim is to support teachers in the inclusive classroom to help learners engage and learn. We will look at a range of practical ideas which can be implemented immediately in lessons.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Teachers of English and teachers using English in class (as in a CLIL context)
- Primary and Secondary teachers as well as teachers of adults, as course content is designed to reflect the needs of the participants
- Participants with a minimum language level corresponding to B1 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:

- Looking at a variety of learning difficulties and differences, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia and their effects on learning
- Carrying out experimental tasks from the viewpoint of a learner with a specific learning difference
- Analysing teaching methods in the light of learning differences
- Discussing different ways of processing information, from semantic to phonological, visual to auditory and how this may affect learning
- Exploring resources and aids available in the immediate environment
- Exploring multisensory learning techniques first-hand as a basis for reflection and / or adapting and designing materials
- Exploring and extending teaching strategies to teach grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation
- Exploring and extending teaching strategies to teach skills-based lessons: reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- Looking at principles of scaffolding in multisensory learning such as recycling, cumulative and sequential learning
- Looking at the affective filter hypothesis and its relevance to our classrooms
- Using assessment tools

Time will be built into the course for reflection and for you to consider how to adapt ideas from the course to the classroom in your own professional context.

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 includes intensive tuition by trainers who are experts in the field of learning differences and inclusion, as well as opportunities for reading and research and 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 with activities which boost confidence and provide memorable learning contexts.
- Tasks will be used to illustrate the key course objectives through procedure as well as content.

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.