

Blended Learning in Language Education with Russell Stannard



Course Overview

Improving access to the internet has led to increasing access both to knowledge and to the tools for using this knowledge. The result is not just changes in the kinds of education that teachers can provide, but the methods and materials that students expect to use. Yet, while much about education can change, there is also a need to retain much of what has gone before. We need to explore how to integrate online and computer-mediated education with that conducted face-to-face, teacher to student.

This 50-hour course aims to explore the opportunities for integrating different modes of education, using a variety of methods. It explores the tools and techniques for doing so, relating theory to practice in ways that teachers will find both effective and efficient.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Teachers of English and ELT professionals wishing to understand the role of blended learning in language education, for language learner and teacher development
- Teachers and other ELT professionals who wish to update their own knowledge and skills in the focus areas of this course
- Teachers and other ELT professionals with a minimum language level corresponding to B2 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:

- Principles and practice of blending learning, including contemporary views
- The role of technology inside and outside the classroom in blended learning
- Language and content knowledge in blended learning approaches
- Evaluation of platforms and content for language learner development
- Activities, exercises, tasks and projects in blended learning approaches
- Effective use of multimedia in language learner and teacher education
- Effective use of Web 2.0 tools in language learner and teacher education
- Practical approaches to blending online and face-to-face delivery

Time will be built into the course for reflection and for participants to consider how to adapt ideas from the course to classrooms in 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 blended learning and also includes opportunities for reading and research, as well as guest lectures and workshops from well-known figures 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 contemporary issues in depth

Facilities and resources

The NILE course venue includes an extensive ELT library and computer suite with Wi-Fi throughout the buildings. Each course has an accompanying online platform which enables you to access course materials and share ideas and materials with other course participants as well as a comprehensive online library. This is available 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.



Russell Stannard is the founder of www.teachertrainingvideos.com. He was awarded the Times Higher 'Outstanding Initiative in ICT' in 2008 and the British Council 'Technology ELTons' in 2010 for his work in using technology in language teaching. He writes regular columns about technology in *English Teaching Professional* and *The Teacher Trainer*. His website receives more than 300,000 visitors a year and more than 22,000 subscribe to his newsletter. He is a regular speaker at conferences and events all over the world.