



PART OF THE INTO GROUP

## Intercultural Awareness in Language Teaching



### Course Overview

Speaking a foreign language is not just about getting the vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation right. When we talk to someone from another culture, while there are similarities between us, we both bring with us differing attitudes, expectations and behaviours that may be surprising.

Physical mobility has increased the communication between people of different cultures, and access to online tools and platforms has not only accelerated this, but broadened and deepened it. Even when physical borders may be difficult to cross, digital media span cultures and continents. As such, it is becoming increasingly important for people to be aware of cultural factors that may affect communication. From this awareness, techniques for dealing with issues can be developed, based on available research, materials and examples of best practice.

### Who is the course suitable for?

The course is aimed at language teaching professionals who are interested in:

- exploring the relationship between language learning and intercultural awareness
- Participants with a minimum language level corresponding to B2 on the CEF
- Developing their own command of English

### What will the course include?

All course participants receive a pre-course questionnaire, which should be returned prior to the course. This is to ensure that the areas of most relevance to participants are covered.

The course will draw on a wide range of authentic texts and illustrative material (e.g. advertisements, newspapers, literary texts, film and TV) to focus on links between contemporary culture and language. Language will be examined as a social and cultural phenomenon. Topics will be drawn from the following:

- Developing cultural awareness through language teaching
- Exploring language change
- Investigating language and cultural meaning
- Examining social and political influences on culture
- Looking at ethnic diversity and varieties of English
- Developing materials for specific cultural needs
- Exploring language and cultural identity
- Looking at culturally loaded language
- Investigating language and social class
- Conducting ethnographic research
- Looking at language in the media
- Exploring classroom approaches to integrating language and culture

All NILE's courses involve a significant element of English language improvement and/or development of language awareness.

### **How long is the course?**

The 50-hour course provision includes intensive tuition by trainers who are experts in the fields of language and intercultural learning, as well as opportunities for reading and research and guest lectures 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.
- 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.
- Tasks will be used to illustrate the key course objectives through procedure and content.

### **Facilities and resources**

The NILE course venue includes an extensive 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.