Prepare your Students for IELTS

Overview and Outcomes

The 30-hour **NILE Prepare your Students for IELTS** course explores all four IELTS papers, looking at the different exam tasks and the skills and sub-skills which are tested in them. You will also look at the speaking and writing test criteria in order to be better able to understand what is expected at each IELTS band and help your students to effectively prepare for these parts of the exam.

The course gives you the chance to try out and reflect on a variety of classroom activities which prepare your learners for all aspects of the exam, including the acquisition of new vocabulary. The course also explores common teaching issues with IELTS classes, such as how to support learners of differing abilities.

Content

Prepare your Students for IELTS includes content drawn from some or all of the following areas, according to participants' needs and interests:

- **Focus on improving your understanding of IELTS exam tasks and what skills and sub-skills are tested**
- **Explore how to be better able to help learners achieve their desired score in the IELTS exam**
- **Explore how to be better able to engage and motivate students preparing for the IELTS exam**
- **Discover how to be better able to assess students' speaking and writing against the IELTS assessment criteria**
- **Reflect on ways to prepare for and plan a course**
- **Reflect on ways to organise an IELTS preparation lesson**
- **Reflect on how to support students with different abilities in IELTS preparation groups**
- **Explore principles of vocabulary acquisition and engaging classroom activities to help learners acquire and review vocabulary**

Each course has a maximum of 18 participants and consists of 10 sessions, each scheduled on a Monday, with an optional 8-week Trinity College London assignment at the end.

Time will be built into the course for reflection, to consider how to adapt the content to your own professional context. We then support you in creating a strategy for putting your ideas into practice in your institution.

The complementary NILE Online platform which is available to all course participants contains all course materials, plus additional resources including videos and academic journals and e-books.

Trainers

NILE and British Council's highly experienced trainers are experts, not only in their fields, but also in working with teachers for continuing professional development.

Teaching approaches

- We make courses practical and 'hands- on', with reference to relevant theory.
- Our courses are participant-centred and collaborative, designed to build knowledge and confidence.
- We use activities and tasks to help you apply the course content to your setting.
- Courses are divided into individual sessions and activities, each with specified learning outcomes, forming a clear structure.
- Teaching is interactive and utilises a range of multimedia including image and video.

Certification

- Your end-of-course NILE certificate details all the areas covered on your course. It comes with recommendations for sharing what you have learnt and implementing your action plan at your institution.
- The course can be extended to include The Trinity Certificate for Practising Teachers

(CertPT) - awarded upon completing an 8-week assignment after the course, fulfilling the skills and knowledge descriptors as set out by Trinity College London.

Who should apply?

- Teachers who already prepare students for the IELTS exam or who are thinking of doing so in the future.
- Participants should have a minimum language level corresponding to B2/C1 on the Common European Framework.

Venue and Facilities

- The course takes place in British Council Bogotá's fully-equipped teaching venue. All course materials are provided.
- All participants have access to NILE's extensive ELT eLibrary and the NILE digital learning platform during the course and for a further six months, to access course materials and other resources. We also encourage you to sign up to NILE Membership Area, which provides a great range of free resources for ELT professionals.

Schedule

This course consists of 10 sessions. Each session lasts 3 hours and takes place on Mondays at British Council Bogotá teaching centre.

Sessions 1 and 2:
Introduction & Orientation; IELTS Speaking Development
These sessions will start by introducing you to the course structure, content and learning outcomes. You will also find out what you can expect from us and what we expect from you, and learn how to access the supplementary digital resource platform. We will introduce ourselves, get a general overview of the content and your teaching contexts.

We will then get an overview of the exam before moving on to focus on the speaking section. We will look at what candidates are expected to do in each part, useful language that can help learners to perform a number of different functions in these parts, and classroom activities that can help learners to prepare for each part. We will also think about ways to organise a speaking lesson on an IELTS preparation course, which can also be used with the other three skills too.

Session 3:	**Sessions 4 & 5:**
Assessing IELTS Speaking	**Listening and Differentiation**
In this session, we will look at key terminology in the assessment criteria (band descriptors) and what it means, and examine the key differences between bands. You will watch several sample speaking tests, and evaluate the candidates against the criteria, using the examiner's feedback to help you better understand what is expected at each IELTS band. Finally, we will think about ways to help learners to understand and use the criteria themselves.	In these sessions, we look at the sub-skills tested in the listening section and think about classroom activities that can help learners to develop their listening skills in preparation for the test, as well as develop their listening skills in general. You will try out some of those activities and reflect on their use with your students. You will have the opportunity to evaluate some useful resources, and share your own ideas. Finally, we look at ways that we can address the issue of mixed ability IELTS preparation classes, thinking about how we can add support for weaker learners, and add extra challenge for stronger learners.

Session 6 - 8:
Writing
After an overview of the writing section, we start these sessions with a focus on part 1. We will look at what is expected of candidates when they produce a description of a chart, graph, table, process or map in the Academic test, or correspondence in the General Training test. We will look at practical activities for helping learners to improve their completion of these tasks. We will then examine the assessment criteria for part 1 writing tasks (band descriptors) and, as with speaking, look at the differences between different bands and what is expected at different levels. You will read some sample answers and assess them against the criteria, reading the examiner's comments to help you better understand what a candidate's writing in different bands looks like.

We will then focus on how we can help candidates to write an effective essay. This includes helping them to come up with ideas, plan, organise their essay effectively, write an introduction, main body paragraph and conclusion using appropriate language, and develop ideas which are effectively linked. Finally, we will look at the assessment criteria (band descriptors) for this part 2 task and use them to evaluate sample answers, again looking at the examiner's comments to help you get a better understanding of how writing is assessed by examiners.

Session 9:	**Session 10:**
Reading and Vocabulary Development	**Course Review and Action Planning**
In this session, we will look common text types in the IELTS reading section, and consider the sub-skills typically tested. We will look at ways to help learners adapt useful exam strategies and evaluate some classroom activities. You will have the opportunity to look at some useful resources, and share your own ideas. Finally, we will look at some principles of vocabulary acquisition and evaluate engaging classroom activities to help learners acquire and review vocabulary.	In this session, you will review the content of your course. You will be encouraged to self-assess against the intended learning outcomes, and consider the implications of your learning for your own professional context and future action planning.

Optional Assignment Trinity Certificate for Practising Teachers
(NB. Additional fee applies)
The Trinity Certificate for Practising Teachers (CertPT) is an in-service vocational teaching qualification at Level 6 on Ofqual's Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). It is defined around pedagogical outcomes and requires the completion of four practical teaching assignments related to the teacher's professional context:

- Evaluate teaching/training resources, making suggestions that will help meet the needs of a specified learner group
- Adapt teaching/training resources to meet the needs of a specified learner group
- Create teaching/training resources to meet the needs of a specified learner group
- Reflect on pedagogical decisions made to meet the needs of a specified learner group

At NILE we are committed to offering the best in language teacher education. NILE courses have been developed specifically to maximise the classroom experience and harness participants' own experience, knowledge and ideas to co-construct the learning experience. Participants will benefit from tutor expertise, extensive resources and tailored materials, and the support of fellow course participants in every session. NILE courses are formally aligned to the Eaquals Framework for Language Teacher Training and Development, and the effort we take to make the NILE experience both positive and productive has been recognised by inspections from AccreditationUK and Eaquals.