

# Testing, Evaluation and Assessment

## Overview and Outcomes

The 30-hour **NILE Testing, Evaluation and Assessment** course is an introduction to key concepts, principles and practices in language testing and assessment, and in the broader area of course and programme evaluation. The course is designed for education professionals with a general interest in language assessment, and for those with a specific professional role in this area. The course will look at the key principles in evaluation in ELT: different models for different objectives; review of formative and summative purposes in testing and assessment; key issues in test design, construction and validation. Finally, we will explore how to put principles into practice: producing good tests and making them work.



### 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 are currently, or intend to be, involved in testing, assessment and evaluation in their professional context.
- Participants should have a minimum language level corresponding to B2 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.

## Content

Testing, Evaluation and Assessment includes content drawn from some or all of the following areas, according to participants' needs and interests:

- The key principles in the field of testing, assessment and evaluation
- How to develop your skills as test designers and evaluators
- How to allow for further development after the course
- How to evaluate the full range of test types, assessment procedures and examinations
- How to offer well-informed leadership to your colleagues and institutions in the fields of testing, evaluation and assessment
- Making the testing and assessment coherent with the teaching
- Testing and assessing the full range of communicative skills; profiling
- Basic statistical issues in testing: item analysis and test evaluation
- Critical review of exams: what should we look for in an EFL exam
- Testing and assessing young learners
- Authentic modes of assessment: self-, peer- and portfolio assessment
- Testing and digital technology: the role of computers, the Internet and AI

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, academic journals and e-books.

## Schedule

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 1:</b> <b>Introductions and Key Concepts</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 2:</b> <b>Test Specifications and External Frameworks</b></p>
<p>This session will introduce 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.</p> <p>You will introduce yourselves and your teaching contexts. You will also get an introduction to key concepts in language testing and assessment, and a chance to explore test purposes and their role in your own context.</p>	<p>In this session, you will review the test types and purposes from Session 1 and consider their presence in your own professional context. You then consider how test specifications support the test development and validation process. The final activities in the session concern the importance of the Common European Framework of Reference and its relation to assessment.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sessions 3 and 4 :</b> <b>Testing Productive Skills</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sessions 5 and 6:</b> <b>Testing Receptive Skills</b></p>
<p>These sessions are all about testing the productive skills - Speaking and Writing. You will look at constructs, direct vs. indirect assessment, the role of technology, developing tasks and the use of marking criteria - from an application and a construction perspective.</p>	<p>In these sessions you are going to focus on the skills of listening and reading. You will define constructs, watch video interviews with testing experts, look at item types and sub-skills, and explore and practise using item writer guidelines to produce your own receptive skills items.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 7:</b> <b>Testing and Assessing Grammar and Vocabulary</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 8:</b> <b>Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods</b></p>
<p>In Session 7 we turn our attention to the language systems, specifically Grammar and Vocabulary, firstly looking at Grammar and the kinds of items we traditionally associate with grammar tests, and whether grammar should be assessed as a separate construct. You will look at what 'knowing a word' means, and whether measures of vocabulary breadth or vocabulary depth are more appropriate in testing and assessment. A final focus in this unit is on washback.</p>	<p>In this session we look at approaches to research in language testing. This is not focused on high-stakes, large-scale research, but rather things that teachers and institutions can find out about their tests and assessment procedures, as part of their evaluation and quality assurance procedures, and building validity arguments. You will explore both qualitative and quantitative approaches to collecting and analysing data and you will have hands-on practice with both.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 9:</b> <b>Alternative(s) to Assessment and Technology in Assessment</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 10:</b> <b>Research Trends, Course Review and Action Planning</b></p>
<p>In this session we explore the approaches to assessment which are often collected under the label 'alternative assessment' or 'authentic assessment'. These include Classroom-based Assessment, self- assessment, portfolio assessment, and 'assessing the unassessable'. In the second part of the unit, you will look at the role of digital technology in testing, and whether it has a place in alternative assessment too. You will consider the impact of Artificial Intelligence on traditional assessment practices. Finally, you will work together to build a resource of online tools and resources for language testers.</p>	<p>In this final session we start by looking at current research trends in testing and assessment, and relating them to the cornerstones we began with at the outset of the course. You will also review the sessions, and consider the implications of your learning for your own professional context and future action planning.</p>
<p><b>Optional Assignment Trinity Certificate for Practising Teachers</b> (NB. Additional fee applies)</p>	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate teaching/training resources, making suggestions that will help meet the needs of a specified learner group</li> <li>• Adapt teaching/training resources to meet the needs of a specified learner group</li> <li>• Create teaching/training resources to meet the needs of a specified learner group</li> <li>• Reflect on pedagogical decisions made to meet the needs of a specified learner group</li> </ul>	

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 Equals 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 Equals.