

The Community of Practice Leader Support Programme



The community of practice leader support programme is an online 40-hour course designed to help experienced teachers and teacher educators develop their skills, knowledge and understanding to set up, facilitate and sustain communities of practice for English language teachers.

Aims and objectives

The role of the community of practice leader is to create the conditions for successful and sustainable peer-to-peer collaboration amongst teachers; our CoP Leader Support Programme is designed with this in mind.

“In this programme, I have broadened my understanding of all phases of the community of practice (CoP), as I initially knew very little about it. Now, having gained significant knowledge with regard to setting up a community for teachers, I am eager to pass this knowledge on to everyone in the field.”

Course participant, CoP LSP MENA cohort, 2021

Audience

The course is intended for English language teachers and teacher educators who would like to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding required to establish, facilitate and sustain communities of practice for teachers.

Eligibility

To access the content and derive maximum benefit from the course, participants should meet the following criteria:

- English language proficiency at IELTS 6.5/7
- A qualification in English language teaching
- Teaching skills and experience at the integrated level of the CPD Framework for teachers
- Adequate digital literacy for successful online learning.

Successful participant profile

The profile of successful participants is generally constructed around some or all of the following:

- a proactive approach to working collaboratively with others in the community
- open to sharing their practice and levels of competence
- a positive view of participant-led professional development
- good communication skills
- commitment to managing work/study effectively
- commitment to meeting deadlines
- intrinsic motivation.

“Being in such a group was a great opportunity to learn about CoPs and develop my skills. It is a great pleasure to meet colleagues from other countries and learn from them”

Course participant, CoP LSP MENA cohort, 2021

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Course content and learning outcomes

The learning content of the course will take CoP leaders through the concept and key success features, set up and parameters of a community of practice for teachers; support the acquisition of key facilitation skills; provide insight into working with adult learners; provide guidance on how to sustain and motivate teacher engagement; provide guidance on how to promote reflection on and application of new skills, and how to evaluate success.

Learning approach

The course is delivered online to closed groups of 20 participants, supported by a dedicated e-moderator. Learning is collaborative and organized around engagement with self-access input, forum tasks, live sessions and portfolio tasks.

“It was great to have a meeting with teachers who have the same interests and needs. This gives you a chance to learn from others’ experiences and discuss different points of view”.

Course participant, CoP LSP MENA cohort, 2021

Course duration

The course has defined start and end dates. Engagement with the course content is designed to be completed over a period of 5/6 weeks, covering approximately 40 hours of guided learning.

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Course structure

The online community of practice leader support programme is modular and divided into the following five modules:

Module 1: CoP key features	The aim of this module is to identify and define a community of practice (CoP), look at the benefits of this kind of learning and at what makes CoPs successful.
Module 2: CoP key facilitation skills	The aim of this module is to identify effective ways to help teachers learn and to understand what is meant by facilitation.
Module 3: Integrating effective CPD principles	The aim of this module is to enable you to start setting up your community of practice, in line with principles of effective teacher CPD.
Module 4: Encouraging reflection	The aim of this module is to enable you to understand more about the importance of reflection and how to help teachers to reflect.
Module 5: Measuring success	The aim of this module is to enable you to measure the success of your community of practice (CoP).

In addition to the course modules an essential component is the portfolio requirement. To achieve success, participants must complete three distinct tasks within this portfolio. These tasks are linked to the establishment of a community of practice (CoP). This structured approach ensures that participants not only engage with theoretical concepts but also apply these principles practically, facilitating a deeper understanding and more sustainable professional growth.

Certification

To obtain the course certificate, course participants are expected to:

- complete all the activities in all modules
- take an active part in the discussion forums
- participate actively in the live sessions
- submit three portfolio tasks related to setting up a CoP and our CPD frameworks

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