

IATEFL LIVERPOOL 2019

BESIG & TTedSIG JOINT PCE



Training (business) English teachers to prepare learners for modern workplaces: Integration of soft skills

In a rapidly globalised world, adult English learners today typically need communication skills to be employable. In this PCE, our aim is to explore how best we can prepare and support business English teachers in designing and delivering courses which integrate soft skills and help learners function more efficiently in today's business world.

The challenge is complicated by the fact that English teachers tend to come to the job either with a background in ELT, but limited business experience, or with considerable business experience but lacking the know-how normally associated with trained language teachers.

#bettePCE2019

Schedule

April 1, 2019

10:00-10:15
Opening remarks

10:15-11:00
Session 1 *Understanding what we really mean by soft skills in the context of teacher education* (Ben Knight)

11:00 – 11:30
Coffee

11:30 – 12:15
Session 2 *Incorporating workplace readiness skills: Successes, challenges and opportunities* (Gordon Lewis)

12:15 - 13:00
Session 3 *Employability: Supporting trainers in soft skills development* (Ros Wright)

13:00-13:30
Questions and comments.
Splitting for afternoon focus groups

13:30 – 14:30
Lunch Break

14:30-15:30
Focus groups

15:30 – 16:00
Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45
Focus group feedback

16:45 – 17:00
Wrap up

SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS

Training (business) English teachers to prepare learners for modern workplaces: Integration of soft skills

Understanding what we really mean by soft skills in the context of teacher education

The session will begin with getting participants to identify different types of soft skills and fit them into a framework to create a common set of terms to help future discussion. We will link this to the Cambridge Framework for Life Competencies. We will then look at 'Can Do' statements for soft skills that are part of the Framework, which will help participants to think about what those skills really mean in practice, and how they can adapt them to their own contexts. And finally, we will explore how the 'Can Do' statements can be used to support teaching practice and learner evaluation.



Ben Knight
Cambridge University Press



Gordon Lewis
Laureate Network Universities

Incorporating workplace readiness skills: Successes, challenges and opportunities

In this talk, we will look at how Laureate Education, the world's largest network of private universities, is approaching workplace readiness and how language departments of the network universities are contributing to this effort.

We will pay attention to the dual role language plays as a tool to strengthen transversal competencies while being one of the competencies itself. We will discuss successes and challenges and suggest some possible routes for the future.

Employability: Supporting trainers in soft skills development

With soft skills development (finally) now being included in mainstream business English coursebooks, the time has surely come to ensure trainers are themselves 'work-ready' and in a position to improve their student's employability by helping them acquire soft skills in English. This talk will consider how best to support trainers in their understanding of the rationale behind soft skills as well as provide tips and hints, including techniques from other sectors, to meet the employability demands of our business English learners.



Ros Wright
Freelance teacher trainer

ABOUT BESIG

Breaking news: BESIG 3rd Online Symposium dates now fixed – Saturday 22 June 2019. See website for further details.



We represent the interests and needs of the international business English teaching community. We offer – both online and offline – a stimulating annual conference as well as other face-to-face events, regular newsletters, webinars and weekend online workshops.

We also offer an expanding list of high quality members-only resources including awards and scholarships.

Committee members



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besig.iatefl.org



ABOUT TTedSIG



TTedSIG - Developing the teacher trainers of today for the teachers of tomorrow

Wherever you are in the world, if you are delivering training sessions to English teachers, then TTed is the SIG for you! We offer an international network for teachers and trainers who work in

- Pre-service courses (CELTA, Trinity CertTESOL)
- Undergraduate/graduate ELT programmes
- In-service teacher education/development
- DELTA or Trinity DipTESOL
- Ministry of Education training courses

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