

ERASMUS+ TRAINING COURSE: THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PROJECT BASED LEARNING – REF. OTC08

1 week. Minimum English language level B1)

Alpha College PIC Number: 945 895 889

This 1 week course on Project Based Learning (PBL) is of significant benefit to teachers and trainers who need to increase their awareness of current thinking on PBL developments and to share ideas on best practice methodologies with colleagues from across Europe thereby improving the overall approach to teaching in their schools and, as a result, the learner outcomes for their students

Objectives

The primary objectives of this 1-week Project Based Learning course are

- to familiarise participants with key concepts and issues in Project Based Learning
- to help develop participants' skills in implementing PBL in the classroom
- to increase participants' skill and confidence in the use of some computer applications used in PBL
- to cover a variety of school projects for subjects such as English, geography and history with a focus on the tools and resources needed to make PBL accessible to learners through English
- to provide opportunities for improved methodology and creativity to help participants increase their student engagement and retention on their return to their own schools
- to provide an opportunity to develop and consolidate participants own language skills
- to produce high-quality learning outcomes for participants thereby re-enforcing the capacity and international scope of their schools
- to establish contacts between teachers from a variety of European backgrounds and facilitate future networking among these professionals
- to promote awareness of contemporary Ireland

Pre-course Preparation

- Pre-course reading list
- Pre-course cultural information
- Pre-Course general arrival information
- Needs Analysis

Support offered by Alpha College

- Course Tutor
- Learning Materials
- On-going evaluation and monitoring
- Setting of learning objectives
- 24 hour emergency contact number
- Accommodation service
- Information on optional extra cultural visits

Enrolment at www.interprimair.eu

Alpha College of English, 4 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

Follow up provided

- A Certificate of Attendance
- Europass Mobility Documentation Completion
- On the final day of the course, the participants are encouraged to examine benefits gained from the course and how they can implement them in their own professional capacity
- Participants are encouraged to keep contact via email and private social networking and to join our forum for previous trainees
- Alpha trainers are available for follow-up advice and support when teachers return to their schools.

Outcomes

- Increased confidence in developing and implementing PBL in the classroom
- Greater understanding of students' needs
- Improved learner outcomes for their students
- Increased awareness of the range of uses for successful implementation of PBL in the school
- Digital portfolio of PBL material as a reference for implementing new techniques in participants own classrooms and to facilitate dissemination of the project to colleagues
- Participation in a real world project focusing on the core stages of PBL
- Increased awareness of the possibilities of exploiting easily available texts as a language teaching resource
- Enhancement of personal English Language skills – reading, writing, speaking, listening, fluency, accuracy
- Sharing of experience and knowledge with professionals from a range of European countries
- Increased knowledge of Irish history and culture
- Knowledge of Erasmus+ potential for professional development

Format

This course on the Theory and Practice of Project Based Learning is a one-week course consisting of 20 morning contact hours as well as two 2-hour afternoon workshops and a cultural and social programme which is linked to the morning sessions. Advice is provided on opportunities for extended Informal Learning and Personal Research related to their course on Saturday and Sunday.

Methodology

This is a practical, hands-on, participative course which focuses on the application of PBL in the classroom. The input sessions are a blend of lecture format and practical activities. Throughout the course participants are encouraged to reflect on their own practice, consider alternative practices and try out a variety of classroom activities through lesson planning, workshops and presentations. Participants will build up a portfolio of project ideas and develop a project of their own.

The morning sessions are complemented and reinforced by a series of related afternoon activities where the participants are encouraged to develop their language skills in a more informal environment outside of the classroom and further enhance their knowledge of Ireland.

Course Programme

Day One

- Induction and introduction to the course. Creation of a digital portfolio
- What is PBL? Key concepts and definitions of PBL
- An orientation tour of Dublin to provide participants with an opportunity to practise their English in a more informal setting outside the classroom, familiarise themselves with the geography and history of the city and allow participants to collect authentic materials for use in the classroom.

Day Two

- The stages involved in planning and executing a project
- Developing projects in our own classrooms. Examining cross-curricula projects. Real world examples
- Workshop: Developing PBL projects. Participants work on developing their own PBL project with groups and with a tutor

Day Three

- Technology and PBL – how to integrate technology into projects.
- Workshop – using web tools to design projects
- Visit to National Gallery. Sourcing authentic materials for workshop.

Day Four

- Utilising the four skills and PBL in the language classroom
- Assessment through projects
- Workshop – participants have the opportunity to work on their project/get further practice on any of the resources viewed during the week under the supervision of one of the course tutors.

Day Five

- Presentation of participants' projects. Peer assessment of colleagues' projects and self -assessment of participants' own contribution to the project. Finalising digital portfolio.
- Course review and evaluation. Implications for future practice. Establish of base and guidelines for future contact and networking.

Course Dates:

- 16th July 2018
- (or by arrangement for closed groups)

Course Fees:

€450 (Price includes tuition, learning materials, excursions and activities as outlined in the programme, completion of Erasmus+ documentation)

(Participants on this course may extend their programme, if necessary, by taking a 1 week General English language training course for an extra fee)

Host Family Accommodation, standard, single room, half board

€195 for 1 week (July and August 2018)

Student Self Catering Accommodation: July and August only. (10/12 minutes on foot from Alpha and from city centre)

Cost to be confirmed (November 2017) - single bedroom, private bathroom, shared kitchen/living room.

Airport Transfers (optional)

arrival €70; departure €70

Sample Timetable

Project Based Learning					
Wk 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-10:50	Induction, orientation and Information dissemination. Creating a digital portfolio	Stages involved in planning and implementing a project	Integrating Technology into project development	Utilising the four skills and PBL in the language classroom	Presentation of participants' projects
<i>Coffee Break</i>					
11:10-13:00	Key concepts and definitions of PBL	Developing projects in classroom and cross curriculum	Workshop – using web tools to design projects	Assessment through projects	Course review and evaluation. Establishing guidelines for future contact and networking
<i>Lunch Break</i>					
p.m.	Orientation tour of Dublin	Workshop: Developing PBL projects with groups	Visit to National Gallery	Supervised Workshop. Developing own PBL project work with groups	Self guided city centre excursion
Saturday: Informal Learning. Self-guided research and cultural activities along guidelines from Alpha College					

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