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# Literacy Matters

## Qualified Overseas?



*Careers  
Scotland  
can help!*

Careers Scotland can now offer a qualifications equivalence-checking service for people with qualifications gained in other countries.

This is a FREE advisory service available via our careers centres within the Highlands & Islands. Please refer your clients to their local careers centre.

For those with academic qualifications from Poland, equivalence information is more easily accessible via the SQA website [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

Colleges and universities should be able to advise applicants on whether their overseas qualifications are suitable for entry to the courses that interest them.

Anyone seeking equivalence of qualifications via Careers Scotland will need to give us details of the country and language of study, their qualifications, modules taken and institutions attended. We aim to respond within seven days and can advise on the next steps for the client but we cannot provide written evidence due to the constraints of the licence contract.

However, equivalence information is provided via the database from the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC). Clients who require written evidence can get this directly from NARIC, who will charge £40 per on-line request or £47 per hard copy per person which usually takes 3 weeks to analyse and check, before a letter of comparability arrives. To contact NARIC, please access their website at: [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk)

## Teaching Qualification in Adult Literacies

The first TQAL pilot which is funded by Learning Connections and run by a consortium of Universities and colleges, is progressing well and will culminate in a conference this coming September.

The reason for funding the first TQAL course is a commitment by the Scottish Government to professionalising the adult literacies workforce. It was noticed that the current TQAL course had a distinct lack of participants hailing from the north of Scotland and therefore a second pilot is being planned which it is hoped will be more accessible for northern practitioners.

It is proposed to run the second pilot at SCQF level 10 and as a PGDE (Postgraduate Diploma in Education). Although there are still discussions to be had, this

level will give parity with school teachers and would also be an acceptable alternative to TQFE for college staff.

This will run for 18 months from January 2009. Although this seems like a long way away at the moment, please start to think now about whether this is something you can consider. The course takes the form of on line tutorials and activities with face to face meetings at various intervals. The requirements are the ability to study at University level and the opportunity to be teaching Adult Literacy and Numeracy learners which will normally be done as part of your usual workload.

More information will be given on this in due course but in the meantime, please at least think about it. Those who have taken the course this year have found it stimulating and enjoyable.

Mary Rhind



## ABE News

### Welcome

Welcome to 2 new members of staff; Mohamed Hamada, Co-ordinator for Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn who started on 4<sup>th</sup> February and Mark Newman, Literacies Support Worker for Ross & Cromarty who started on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### Funding Awards

ABE has been awarded £150,000 to maintain the increased hours of the Co-ordinators and to employ Literacies Workers in Inverness and Ross & Cromarty.

In addition, it has been awarded £38,000 to continue to employ the **Prison Literacies Liaison Officer** to undertake work both in Porterfield Prison and with prisoners on release.

### Museum Partnership Project

On the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> September, a successful *Night at the Museum* was held in Inverness which was well attended by ABE tutors who were invited to explore and discuss the exciting literacies learning potential in museum exhibitions and artefacts.



Following on from this, there was a visit by literacies practitioners to the Highland Folk Museum in Kingussie on 23<sup>rd</sup> November with a view to arranging further visits to the museum with groups of ABE learners. Mark Richardson and Norman Ross will also be delivering awareness raising to Folk Museum staff this March.

At Inverness ABE, a week of learning taster sessions was offered to existing one to one learners in September 2007. This work built on an existing partnership with the libraries and a key developing one with museum services. The purpose of the sessions was to offer an gentle introduction to group work for one to one learners.

The week was a success in many ways and, during the evaluation workshop, the museum session emerged as a firm favourite. This has been followed up by the introduction of a history group which runs with a regular seven members and is currently focusing on looking at WW2. The content of the sessions is learner led and the group is once again looking ahead to some sessions at the Inverness Museum and a study visit to the Highland Folk Museum.

### ITALL Courses

An ITALL course will be held in Inverness from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April for six weeks from 0930 - 1400. Because of existing demand, places on the course are limited. A further course is anticipated for September.

Courses will also run in other areas later in the year. If you are interested, please give your local Co-ordinator a ring. He or she will give you further information and put you on the waiting list to keep you informed about the next course in your area.

Alternatively, if you are a part of a team which you think would benefit from the 2-day Adult Literacies Awareness Course available, please give Norman Ross a call on 01463 251279.

### Inverness Tutors' Evening

An evening workshop will be held at the Spectrum Centre on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April from 1900 - 2100. It will be an opportunity to catch up, share practice and look at new resources. There will also be a focus on Norman Ross's work in both the prison and the community.

<b>Adult Basic Education</b>	
<b>Strategy Officer</b>	
<i>Julie Simmons</i>	01463~251278
<b>Caithness</b>	
<i>Libby Cook</i>	01955~605423
<b>Inverness</b>	
<i>Mark Richardson</i>	01463~710013
<b>Ross &amp; Cromarty</b>	
<i>Norma Christie</i>	01349~864579
<b>Lochaber</b>	
<i>Ann-Marie Donoghue</i>	01397~707371
<b>Badenoch, Strathspey &amp; Nairn</b>	
<i>Mohamed Hamada</i>	01667~458556
<b>Sutherland</b>	
<i>Barbara Watson</i>	01549~402050
<b>Skye &amp; Lochalsh</b>	
<i>Joey Graham</i>	01478~614064
<b>Prison Literacies</b>	
<i>Norman Ross</i>	01463~251279

# SQA Professional Development Award

## *Introduction to Tutoring ESOL*

### **Background**

This development links in with the Adult ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) Strategy for Scotland, launched in March 2007. The strategy highlighted the need for new tutoring qualifications to foster quality ESOL learning. The work done by volunteers and the potential accreditation for their training was particularly mentioned here. The Scottish Government and the Atlas Project (Action for Teaching and Learning of Asylum Seekers) have both provided financial support, helping to drive the project forward.

Initially, we undertook extensive consultation with sectors involved in ESOL delivery in Scotland. This research included an online survey and 6 consultation workshops across Scotland. There was a great deal of support for the development of this initial tutoring award and, indeed, for the development of further ESOL tutoring qualifications.

### **Award Aims**

The PDA is aimed at those new to the field of ESOL, or experienced tutors with no recognized ESOL tutoring/teaching qualifications. It might also be appropriate for teachers of other subjects who have ESOL learners in their classes and wish to develop a broad understanding of issues related to English Language acquisition. The award provides an introduction in terms of the knowledge and skills needed to deliver ESOL.

While this is a new award, a number of organisations, such as the Glasgow ESOL Forum, Stevenson College, Edinburgh, Learning Connections, the WEA and Fife Council, already provide training on an informal or unaccredited basis. Their courses develop ESOL tutoring skills and core language knowledge. The PDA will allow those offering tutor training to provide accreditation for this training. For ESOL providers in sectors such as the community and the workplace, it will help to enhance the quality of learning programmes by setting standards through building the knowledge, skills and confidence of ESOL tutors.

### **Qualification Structure**

The award will sit at SCQF level 6; accessible to candidates who may have few formal academic qualifications, but are confident and capable in their own use of the English language and would like to develop more explicit knowledge. It will have 2 units. The design of the qualification has been aided by a qualification design team, all experienced ESOL practitioners in Scotland. The team has helped to guide the project, ensuring an award useful and appropriate to the diverse ESOL learning environments in Scotland.

- Unit one has a language focus, developing the core knowledge needed to successfully deliver ESOL. Areas covered are: ESOL learners and factors affecting language development; English language features and terminology; language skills and language selection.
- Unit two develops the skills required for tutoring ESOL. This unit covers: planning; appropriate resource selection and use; delivery and evaluation of learning/teaching.

### **Should you consider this qualification?**

- The qualification has built-in flexibility allowing centres to tailor their courses to local/regional/sectoral needs. At the same time, both units provide a solid base for professional development
- The PDA is intended as a first stage qualification. It will provide core skills and knowledge for those without formal (TESOL) training, and help to increase recognition of ESOL as a specialist subject.
- Issues raised during consultation have been addressed, such as the need for e-learning/blended learning (of particular importance in the Highlands and Islands).
- We intend to create tailored learning materials to support delivery, helping to maintain standards and provide a quality product.
- And we hope (all going well) to have the qualification validated and launched before the summer!

### **Further Developments**

It is expected that tutors wishing to develop in the ESOL domain will undertake further study of ESOL theory and practice. SQA has been asked to sit on the Professional Development Working Party set up by the National ESOL. We hope that decisions made will help inform future developments in terms of further ESOL qualifications - so watch this space!

### **Where can you find out more?**

Visit the web page:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/pdaesol>

Or the blog:

<http://sqatesol.blogspot.com/>

Or get in touch with Jennifer MacDougall on 0845 213 5596  
[jennifer.macdougall@sqa.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.macdougall@sqa.org.uk)

# Funding Awards

## Literacies Awards

**Youth Highland** has been awarded 36,578 to continue to the work of the Youth Literacies Worker in developing innovative ways to provide integrated literacies for young people.

**The Workers' Educational Association** has been awarded £33,545 to continue the work of the Workplace Literacy Co-ordinator who will build on the success of working with existing partners and develop new links with employers to deliver literacy, numeracy and ICT courses throughout Highland.

**Apex Scotland** has been awarded £30,781 to provide a community based support service. They will work with other agencies to

identify individuals as requiring literacies support to help them maintain motivation to change and gain and sustain employment, training or further education opportunities in the Inverness area.

**Calman Trust** has been awarded 12,000 to employ a young person in the role of Literacy Engagement Worker to provide literacies support to young people who are referred to Calman as at risk of homelessness and who are lacking basic skills.

**TAG Highland** has been awarded £6,612 to continue to integrate literacy and numeracy in its successful Rag, Tag n Textile project which is involved in creating quality fashion items and soft furnishings from recycled textiles.

## ESOL Awards

**Highlands & Islands Multicultural Organisation (HIMA)** for informal English classes for Polish people in Lochaber who have already attended some ESOL provision.

**Kinlochbervie Primary School** to provide English classes for parents.

**Lochaber College** to develop an intensive ESOL course for beginners.

**St Mary's R C Church** to provide English classes in Inverness.

## Funding Deadline

The closing date for the next funding round is:

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**



## WEA ESOL Tutor Workshops

The WEA have planned the following introductory ESOL course and a number of stand-alone ESOL workshops:

### An Introduction to Working with ESOL Learners

**Monday 31 March and  
Monday 7 April – 10:00 – 16:00**

**Sutherland Arms, Golspie**

An introductory course which is regarded as a first step to tutoring in ESOL. The course is designed primarily for tutors or tutor assistants who are working with ESOL learners, but do not hold a qualification in teaching ESOL. Practitioners may be working, or about to start work with ESOL learners, either in a group or one-to-one setting, or supporting the group tutor.

### ESOL Workshops – Beaufort Hotel, Inverness

**Tuesday 11 March 11:00 – 13:00  
followed by lunch**

'Try it, it works!' Successful ESOL Activities demonstrated by various tutors.

(please note change of date from 4 March)

**Thursday 17 April 10:00 - 12:00**

Another chance to take part in an ESOL speaking workshop. The focus will be on using communicative speaking activities in the classroom. Tutor: Gillian Scott

**Wednesday 7 May 10:00 - 12:00**

Creating new materials relevant to local ESOL learners. Tutor: Gillian Scott

**Thursday 22 May 10:00 - 12:00**

Another chance to take part in an ESOL listening workshop. Tutor: Gillian Scott

**Tuesday 3 June 11:00 – 13:00  
followed by lunch**

ESOL Learners' Perspectives. An opportunity to hear from people from different countries with first-hand experience of learning ESOL locally.

### ESOL Workshops - Aros Centre, Portree, Isle of Skye

**Wednesday 9 April 09:30 – 15:00**

In partnership with ABE Skye we are holding 3 ESOL workshops:

Teaching Vocabulary  
Tutor: Gillian Scott

ESOL Workplace Materials  
Tutor: Judie Holliday

Pronunciation awareness and learner practice Tutor: Gillian Scott

### Other Locations

In addition to the above, a workshop or series of workshops can be repeated in other locations in the Highlands on request. Other workshops available include teaching pronunciation, listening, grammar, reading and writing.

All workshops and refreshments are **free**. Booking of places is essential as teas, coffees and on occasions, lunch, have to be ordered

For further details or to book a place on any of the workshops, please call **Gillian Scott ESOL Development Coordinator, on 07828 101987 email g.scott@weascotland.org.uk**