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Base Section: Pre-sessional English Programme and Short Courses

Responsibilities: School Co-ordinator of Teacher Development, Chair of Communication Committee

Bio: I have worked in English Language Teaching for over almost 40 years as a teacher, teacher trainer, materials writer, and British Council ELT consultant in Estonia. I was also instrumental in setting up private language schools in Italy and Poland. In Italy we also wrote and 'starred' in an English Teaching series for local television - sadly lost to posterity! I have published extensively in English language teaching, with 15 titles, ranging from books for teachers, secondary course books, self-study materials on vocabulary and listening. I am currently writing an original reader for students in Brazil.

SEMINAR 1: Preparing lecturers to deliver degree programmes through English

8 May 2019 12.00-13.30 Room SOC-311

More and more universities worldwide are offering degree courses through English to students whose first language is also not English. What are the benefits and challenges of teaching your academic subject through English? In this session we will look at ways in which lecturers working in this context have adapted their English to make what they say more comprehensible to students; and how they can adapt their teaching methodology (usually by making it more interactive) in order to provide more support for international students. We can also discuss whether the putative benefits of EMI (English as a medium of instruction) are really worth the effort! I look forward to hearing your ideas.

SEMINAR 2: Preparing international students to study through English

9 May 2019 10.00-11.30 Room SOC-213

Hundreds of thousands of international students come to the UK every year to do academic degrees. Often their rationale is pragmatic – e.g. a master's degree in China usually takes 3 years; in the UK a master's is completed in 1 year. The students also hope to improve their English while studying. Research would suggest that the latter does not happen to any great extent, while the quality of student learning maybe limited by the reduced time of the course, as well as the problems they have with language and adjusting to a different academic culture. In this session we will look at how pre-sessional courses (before students start their degrees) prepare students for academic study, in terms of language, study skills and adapting to a different academic culture. We will also ask the question of ***how well-prepared students can be*** before they start their degrees. My personal view is that students often struggle and that the quality of the degree they obtain is not necessarily very good. I am interested to hear your views on these questions, either from your personal or professional experience.