



## **SCOTTISH STUDENTS PRAISED FOR PRODUCING TEACHING RESOURCES**

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The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has recognised students at a number of further education colleges for their contribution to a teaching resource that will benefit the next generation of English language tutors.

Students studying ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) at Stevenson College Edinburgh, Clydebank College and Langside Colleges, both in Glasgow assisted SQA in producing a teaching pack that will be used to train new tutors.

The students have given their time to help SQA produce the pack, which contains resources providing trainee tutors with an understanding of the diversity of ESOL learners and the challenges they face learning a new language in Scotland.

The packs will be used in the delivery of a new Professional Development Award in Tutoring English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Over recent years, the demand for ESOL courses has risen dramatically in Scotland.

Learners whose first language is not English, who need to improve their language skills can undertake courses in colleges, community learning and development partnerships, schools and voluntary organisations. This has led to an increase in the demand for tutors who are qualified to teach ESOL learners.

SQA, with support from the Scottish Government, has developed the new Tutoring English for Speakers of Other Languages award to act as a first stage in the professional development of individuals who wish to work with ESOL learners.

The pack will be used by teacher trainers delivering the new qualification.

Jennifer McDougall, TESOL development manager at SQA, said: “The teaching resource pack came together with the help of a number of partner organisations. Our partners allowed us to visit their centres to interview learners and practitioners and film groups taking part in ESOL lessons. One of the great successes of the learning materials is the authenticity of the resources.

“This success would have been impossible without the contributions of the practitioners, learners and centres. We’re extremely grateful to all those involved in helping to create this innovative resource.”

Steve Brown, curriculum leader in languages at Clydebank College, said: “ESOL students at the college were filmed talking about their lives and experiences of learning English in Scotland. The interviews provide trainee tutors with an insight into the lives of the people they could be working with.

“A group of students was filmed during a lesson, focusing on listening tasks featuring Glaswegian accents, something which can be tricky for even native English speakers!

“We used the materials when we delivered the training course earlier this year, and they are very effective in terms of helping trainees understand the needs of different learners. They also provide examples of practical teaching or tutoring techniques, which trainees can implement with their own learners.”

Celia Fisher, senior TESOL lecturer at Langside College, said: “We filmed an all female community ESOL group in Pollokshaws Methodist Church in Glasgow. All the women in the group live in the local area and the film provided an interesting insight into the challenges they faced learning a new language in Glasgow.

“Tutors were also interviewed about teaching issues and provided advice on how best to plan lessons and the most effective way to provide feedback to students. This kind of insight will be invaluable to new tutors working with ESOL students for the first time.”

Alison Chambers, associate principal at Stevenson College Edinburgh, said: “We provided access to two ESOL sessions, an entry level class and a vocational course which bridges into mainstream college courses or employment.

“Our students have been given the opportunity to pass on their experiences of learning English here in Scotland to new tutors and I hope their input will help direct the careers of new ESOL tutors across the country.”

Further qualifications for ESOL practitioners are currently being developed. For more information on the Professional Development Award: Introduction to Tutoring English for Speakers of Other Languages, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/tesol](http://www.sqa.org.uk/tesol).

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