

BALEAP Bulletin

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As I said in my last bulletin, a key role of BALEAP is supporting professional development for EAP teachers and promoting and disseminating EAP associated research. This is achieved through our one-day Professional Issues Meetings (PIMs) and our biennial conferences. BALEAP is also concerned with overall quality control and development of EAP courses. This is done through our accreditation scheme for EAP courses, the BALEAP Accreditation Scheme (BAS). The scheme is run by the BAS Committee (current chair, Moira Calderwood, University of Glasgow).

The BALEAP Accreditation Scheme is a quality assurance mechanism to help member institutions sustain and improve the standards of their EAP courses, thus protecting the interests of international students and enabling them to pursue their university studies more effectively. EAP courses at BAS member institutions are assessed and accredited according to a strict set of criteria, and accreditation is only granted when a course meets satisfactory standards in all areas. Assessment visits take place at least once every four years, and a detailed report is produced subsequently. The Scheme has recently undergone an extensive review, resulting in a revision of the handbook. Another important innovation has been the introduction of a shorter 'fast-track' assessment visit for institutions which already have 'English in Britain' accreditation. For further information contact BASC@baleap.org.uk

Professional Issues Meeting (PIMs)

The next PIM will have the title: **TEACHER TRAINING IN EAP REVISITED**. It will be held at the University of Essex on Saturday 20 November 2004. The PIM will consist of presentations of research, course descriptions, and course materials relating to Teacher Training in EAP. This PIM will revisit the subject of teacher training for EAP that was started at the PIM in Bath in June 2001. At that PIM, papers were given on Course Designs for an MA module in EAP, MA and Diploma courses in EAP. It is intended to have an update on those initiatives and hear about new schemes/courses, which have been set up more recently.

In addition, we hope to have contributions on topics relating to in-service provision of professional development/support, e.g. training aimed at part-time tutors on intensive courses such as Summer Pre-session programmes 'converting' ELT-experienced staff into EAP lecturers.

From a BALEAP point of view, we would like to investigate the role that BALEAP should play in supporting teacher training for EAP. Should BALEAP, for example, be involved in accrediting or in other ways ensuring the quality and outcomes of such course?

Conference: Call for papers

The next BALEAP conference, organised jointly with SATEFL, will be held at the James Watt Conference Centre, Heriot-Watt University from 15th – 17th April, 2005. The theme is “New Approaches to Materials Development for Language Learning”. Materials / syllabus developers working in the fields of EAP, General English and Teacher Training are invited to submit research-based or classroom-based presentations in the form of papers or interactive workshops, lasting 40 minutes, or posters describing practical classroom ideas.

Areas of interest could include:

- how findings from research can be translated into practical teaching materials
- how raw language data, e.g. from corpora, can be converted into useable materials
- introducing critical thinking into materials development
- the influence of new technologies on materials development – e.g. the design of materials for technology-based learning
- materials and pedagogical approaches which suit both General English and EAP
- evaluation of materials by researchers, teachers and students
- materials which follow a method or approach, e.g. materials for *non*-task-based teaching or for implementing a lexical approach
- innovative uses for existing materials
- materials-light teaching, e.g. the Dogme approach
- what constitutes ‘expertise’ in materials development

The deadline for submission of proposals is 7th January 2005. If you are interested, please see the BALEAP web-site or contact Olwyn Alexander, the conference organiser conference@baleap.org.uk