

## Practice Tutor and Practice Tutor Award

Complementing the pilot Teaching Qualification, a group of experienced practitioners will operate as Practice Tutors to offer professional guidance and mentoring to TOAL students. There is an opportunity to study for a practice tutor award (30 credits at SCQF Level 11).

### What does it entail?

Working alongside one or more TOAL students to observe practice and support learning. Studying to complete the PTA and attending developmental and support meetings.

### What is required?

Practice tutors will normally have a first degree or post graduate qualification, have a minimum of 3 years experience in adult literacies work (including supervisory experience) and would be motivated to support the development of a professional qualification in adult literacies teaching.

*'We ask learners to go outside their comfort zones in their learning, without this it is difficult to progress, so why should we not be pushed outside ours? And it's good to see how this feels (on reflection of course!) and be reminded of how valuable it is to face challenges.'* A TOAL Student

**To obtain an application form for the 2009 course or for further information contact:**

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# Teaching Qualification in Adult Literacies (TOAL)

A Professional Development Opportunity for Adult Literacies Tutors

Study on a part-time basis for:

*The Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Adult Literacies)*  
or  
*The Diploma in Higher Education (Adult Literacies)*



## 1) Who is the TOAL for?

Are you an adult literacies tutor with a minimum of two years experience, working as a tutor (paid or voluntary) for 5 hours or more and do you have the motivation to acquire a professional qualification? If so then this is the course for you.

## 2) The two routes to the TOAL

There are two ways to study for the TOAL:

If you are an adult literacies tutor who matches the above (1) and you already have a graduate qualification (and preferably obtained ITALL) then the Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Adult Literacies) is the TOAL route for you. This course is set at SCQF level 10.

If you are an adult literacies tutor who matches the above (1) and you have obtained ITALL or studied up to SCQF level 6 then the Diploma in Higher Education (Adult Literacies) is the TOAL route for you. This course is set at SCQF level 8.

## 3) How does it work?

The two courses share the same 4 modules but are differentiated in terms of learning outcomes and assessment expectations. Both will result in a professionally relevant qualification that will be generically known as the TOAL.

### 4) What are the Modules?

#### 1 Learning Worlds

*The programme begins with the aim of encouraging participants to enrich their understanding and appreciation of learners in relation to their social context. As well as undertaking a small case study of a literacies learner, they are asked to reflect on themselves as learners and to consider the value of informal learning for professionalism.*

#### 2 Making Mental Models

*In the second module, participants explore the 'what' and the 'why' of adult literacies teaching rather than the 'how'. Theory figures strongly in this module; theories are not presented as recipes for practice, however, but ways of understanding practice. We all have 'theories' which influence how we respond to and interpret our experiences; in this module participants explore their own ideologies as well as those which are embodied in policy. They also begin to consider the kind of research processes whereby we can investigate practice so as to generate new ideas and 'models'.*

#### 3 Expanding Our Repertoire

*In the third module, the focus is on developing strategies for ALN teaching, learning and assessment, through sharing and reflecting on practice. The course assignment is a small Action Enquiry project, the purpose of which is to learn about practice from practice.*

#### 4 The Enabling Net

*The final module is about developing a shared vision and collective action as literacies professionals. Principles of partnership and networking are considered, specifically in the context of local ALN partnerships. Participants are supported to build on the Action Enquiry process with a small scale research project related to adult literacies in their own area.*

## 5) Will I have to stop working whilst on the course?

No. Whilst you may have to reschedule some work the majority of the programme is work-based. The programme involves groups of students coming together in study blocks (for which a timetable will be issued - each entail 5 days together - 20 days across the 18 months); undertaking work-based learning in which the principles of the programme are explored in your practice; and involves engagement with an on-line learning environment through which reflection takes place, linking you with other students and connecting you with study centre tutors.

## 6) Where will I study?

Students will enrol at one of four study centres either at the Universities of Strathclyde, Dundee or Aberdeen or at Forth Valley College of Further and Higher Education.

## 7) How long does it take to obtain the TOAL?

The course will run on a part-time basis and will last 18 months - the start up will be in January 2009 and it concludes in June 2010

## 8) How much will it cost?

The really good thing is that the course is fully funded by Learning Connections and won't cost you anything. There may also be an opportunity for sessional tutors to obtain some financial support for engaging in the course.

*'We will all take many positives from our TOAL experience I am sure but the most positive aspect for me is that we are more active in our practice, more critically aware of how and why we practice and apply more critical analysis to our profession.'*  
A TOAL Student

