

TESOL Conferences: 29th International Conference & Exhibition

The AI Revolution and the
Future of Language Education

Pre Conference & In Conference
Development Courses
Sessions & Schedule

-  18-20 April, 2025
-  Face to Face
-  University of Sharjah



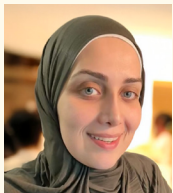
Pre Conference Development Courses

Friday, April 18 (9:00 PM - 12:00 PM)

GenAI Crash Course: Hands-on Strategies, Prompts & Activities for your Language Classroom

Room: W3, 002

Presenters:



Sebah Al-Ali

American University of Sharjah, UAE



Kristen Highland

American University of Sharjah, UAE

Abstract:

This intensive workshop is designed for language teachers interested in utilizing Generative AI (GenAI) in their language classrooms. The workshop will begin with GenAI fundamentals and engage participants in hands-on activities exploring ethical considerations, prompting techniques, and practical strategies for teaching and learning with GenAI. Throughout the workshop, participants will reflect on their own practice and develop the necessary skillset for effective GenAI integration in education. Participants will also engage with and learn from like-minded educators in the region who are interested in GenAI technologies. By the end, educators will be prepared to implement GenAI tools confidently and critically in diverse language learning contexts. *To ensure effective participation, participants should bring a laptop and have a valid gmail account.*

Bios:

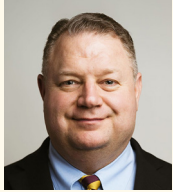
Sebah Al-Ali is a language teacher, teacher trainer, and educational researcher. She teaches research literacy and academic writing while leading initiatives in educational technology integration. She is also an Associate Editor at *Studies in Technology Enhanced Learning*. Al-Ali's research focuses on the intersection of technology-enhanced learning, higher education, and research literacy. Most recently, she led an 18-month study examining GenAI applications in education, resulting in the development of *the LAIK framework*—a practical guide for educators implementing GenAI in their teaching practice.

Kristen Highland is Associate Professor of English at American University of Sharjah (AUS), where she teaches courses in literature, reading and writing technologies, and academic writing. Her scholarship examines historical and contemporary bookselling and the ways in which digital environments have transformed book cultures and practices of reading and writing. She has published on collaborative digital multimodal composition and integrating technology in ESL classrooms, as well as given talks and workshops focused on implementing digital humanities pedagogy in international liberal arts institutions. She is the author of *The Spaces of Bookselling: Stores, Streets, and Pages* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

Embracing Artificial Intelligence in English Language Teaching and Learning

Room: W3, 003

Presenter:



Justin Shewell

Arizona State University, USA & TESOL International Association President

Abstract:

This course is designed for teachers of all skill levels, aiming to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their teaching practices effectively. The workshop begins with an overview of the evolution of AI, providing participants with a foundational understanding of various AI technologies and exploring ethical considerations for responsible use in the classroom. Participants will learn how to use AI for personalized learning and to enhance social, teaching, and cognitive presence within the Community of Inquiry model. They will explore how to design lesson and assessments in the age of AI, emphasizing performance-based evaluations and efficient feedback.

Bio:

Justin Shewell holds a Ph.D. in Educational Technology from Arizona State University, an MA in TESOL from Brigham Young University, and a BA in TESOL Education from Brigham Young University - Hawaii. He is the co-creator of Teach English Now!, one of the largest online TESOL certificate programs in the world. He is also currently serving as President of the TESOL International Association for 2025 - 2026. He is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Arizona State University in the United States.

AI in Academic Writing and Research

Room: W3, 004

Presenters:



Kasia Truszkowska

Oxford Academy of English, UK



Tendai Charles

British University in Dubai, UAE

Abstract:

AI in Academic Writing and Research is an interactive three-hour course designed to help students, educators, and researchers use AI as a valuable tool for academic writing while maintaining ethical integrity. Participants will explore how AI can accelerate research through literature reviews, summarisation, and idea generation while also understanding its limitations, such as biases, factual inaccuracies, and the risk of over-reliance. Through live demonstrations, ethical discussions, and case studies, attendees will develop a critical and creative AI mindset, ensuring AI is used to support—rather than replace—deep academic engagement. By the end of the course, participants will have a clear, practical framework for integrating AI responsibly into their research and writing practices, enhancing both efficiency and academic rigour.

Bios:

Kasia Truszkowska is a seasoned educator with extensive experience in higher education in the UK since 2016. She holds a BA in Applied Linguistics, an MA in TESOL, a BSc

in Economics, as well as CELTA and DELTA qualifications. She has worked across multiple institutions, including the University of Surrey and Kingston University. Kasia is the founder of the Oxford Academy of English, an international online school supporting students worldwide in achieving academic excellence at British universities. Most recently, she developed her signature programme, “AI in Academic Writing,” blending research-driven insights with hands-on experience.

Dr Tendai Charles holds a PhD in Education from the University of York and an MA in Applied Linguistics & TESOL from Newcastle University. He has taught at multiple Russell Group universities in the UK and currently works as an Assistant Professor of Education at the British University in Dubai. He is a post-positivist researcher with numerous publications pertaining to TESOL and Technology Enhanced Learning. For the past two years he has been heavily engaged with training K-12 teachers and H.E. instructors on the ethical and effective use of artificial intelligence in the UAE’s education sector.

Revolutionize Your Classroom: AI Tools for Next-Level Language Teaching

Room: W3, 005

Presenters:



Lana Hiasat

Higher Colleges of Technology, Dubai, UAE



Christine Coombe

Higher Colleges of Technology, Dubai, UAE

Abstract:

Step into the future of education with this dynamic, hands-on development course designed to transform your English language teaching. In this three-hour development course, you’ll explore cutting-edge AI tools that can streamline lesson planning, personalize student learning, and elevate classroom engagement. From AI-driven chatbots and language assessment tools to creative writing assistants and real-time feedback systems, you’ll learn how to integrate these technologies into your teaching practice effectively.

Through practical demonstrations and collaborative activities, you’ll discover how AI can help tailor lessons to individual learners, provide immediate support, and inspire creativity in both you and your students. Whether you’re a novice or an experienced educator, this development course will empower you to harness AI’s potential to create a more dynamic language-learning environment. Join us and revolutionize the way you teach! Make sure you remember to bring your own device (laptop or iPad).

Bios:

Dr. Lana Hiasat is a senior lecturer and has a doctoral degree in educational leadership with a specialization in educational technology. She is also a Senior Fellow HEA (SFHEA) certified trainer in future foresight, and a practitioner in intercultural intelligence, emotional intelligence, and Kaizen Creativity. Lana is the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award 2024 and has published in areas of future foresight, emotional intelligence, artificial intelligence, smart learning, blended learning, educational leadership, intercultural intelligence, and online teaching and learning. Lana has served as the co-chair for several international conferences. She was on the task force to develop the social sciences curriculum in the UAE and has developed a certification leadership training on emotional intelligence for educational leaders.

Christine Coombe has a Ph.D in Foreign/Second Language Education from The Ohio State University and is an Associate Professor of General Studies at Dubai Men's College, Higher Colleges of Technology in the UAE. Christine has co-authored/edited 60 volumes on assessment/testing, research education and literacy, teacher effectiveness, leadership, and task-based teaching and learning. Dr Coombe served as TESOL International Association President (2011-2012) and as a member of the Board of Directors (2005-2007; 2010-2013). Christine received the British Council's International Assessment Award for 2013. Her most recent honors were being named to TESOL's 50@50 which "recognizes professionals who have made significant contributions to the TESOL profession within the past 50 years." In 2018, she received the Alatis Award for exemplary service to TESOL. Most recently, she was named to the US Department of State's 30@30 list which recognizes the top 30 English Language Specialists over the past 30 years. In 2024, she was elected to the TESOL International Research Foundation's (TIRF) Board of Trustees.

Comprehensive Student Behavior Management: Empowering Teachers and Administrators

Room: W3, 006

Presenter:



Muhammed Shelby
Educational Consultant, KSA

Abstract:

While both teachers and school administration understand the importance of student discipline, there's a common misconception that it is solely the teachers' responsibility. In reality, effective discipline is not possible without the support of school administration. This course aims to cover the four essential components of a successful student behavior management program: administrative support, a streamlined code of conduct, an efficient communication system, and comprehensive teacher training. Addressing student mischievousness starts with a trained teacher categorizing the infringement and deciding whether to handle it independently or to escalate through a reporting system, which should be easy, effective, time-efficient, and accurate. Then, the infringement is addressed by the school management, which applies the Ministry of Education's code of conduct without causing provocation or resistance. The challenges of each component will be discussed and a free communication system will be provided to ensure participants gain a holistic understanding of the program. Participants will leave the course equipped with a deeper understanding of behavior, solutions to behavioral issues they encounter, and, more importantly key questions they need to ask about their own contexts. This knowledge will empower

them to improve student behavior in their schools, creating a more conducive learning environment.

Bio:

Muhammad Shelby is an educational consultant in Saudi Arabia. He holds an MA with distinction in Applied Linguistics and TESOL from Leicester University, UK. He has over 20 years of experience in teaching, management and teacher training at school and university levels in the middle east and the UK. He has trained thousands of schoolteachers and admin member on behavior management since 2006 at the British Council, at international conferences and in training programs and courses. Muhammad is an expert in behavior management and developed the *Institutional Behavior Management (IBM)* approach to behavior management.

In-Conference Development Courses

April 18-20, 2025

Room: W3,007

Future-Proof Your Passion: Reignite, Upskill, and Redefine Your Teaching Journey

Teaching is more than a profession—it's a lifelong journey of growth and reinvention. In this forward-thinking development course, designed to align with the evolving landscape of language education, you'll reconnect with the joy of teaching, gain cutting-edge skills, and explore pathways for a fulfilling future. Through several interactive sessions, you'll rediscover your passion through reflective practices and energizing strategies. You'll also master new tools and techniques to stay ahead in your professional practice, from leveraging AI to self care and well being strategies. Finally, explore ways to transition into the next phase of your career, whether it be a well-deserved retirement or an exciting pivot into new opportunities. Join us to reignite your love of teaching, retool for the future, and confidently prepare for whatever comes next in your educational journey.

Reignite, Upskill, and Redefine Your Teaching Journey

This course empowers educators to embrace the future of teaching with enthusiasm and confidence. Participants will engage in practical, hands-on activities and use cutting-edge AI tools to explore strategies for wellbeing, upskilling, and career transitions.

Breakdown of Sessions

Friday, April 18

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Introductory session on the Future of Language Education (Christine Coombe & Lana Hiasat)

To set the stage for this in-conference development course, the lead organizers will engage participants on an interactive reflective focus group on ways to ‘reignite’, ‘upskill’ and ‘redefine’ the teaching journey and what participants see as the future of language education.

Part I: Reigniting and Rediscovering Your Purpose

Saturday, April 19

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Reconnecting with what inspires your teaching journey & regaining your teacher mojo (Christine Coombe & Lana Hiasat)

Teacher “mojo” is defined as a teacher’s personal power or influence over others and it is a key characteristic of success. It is also central to future foresight in that it enables teachers to pull themselves into their preferred futures. Getting and sustaining teacher mojo is a critical element for teachers in the classrooms of tomorrow. Inspired by the work of Goldsmith (2014), this session will focus on an innovative and expanded framework consisting of five essential elements that are critical in today’s classrooms and the classrooms of tomorrow. Teachers will be engaged in reflection on their teaching practices and will share and engage in our interactive mojo activities.

Saturday, April 19

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Developing Self-Care Strategies for Educational Professionals (Seetha Sagarán)

The education field demands excellence and dedication to impart knowledge to students effectively. The passion this profession demands puts educators at high risk for compassion fatigue, burnout, and even early resignation. Self-care is critical for educators to provide quality education and practical support to students.

Part II: Upskilling: Essential Elements of the Teacher of Tomorrow

Saturday, April 19

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

AI and Technology Essentials for Teachers (Sebah Al Ali & Moath Awawdeh)

Grounded in original research and real classroom experience, this workshop gives teachers what they truly need: clear GenAI basics, smart prompting tips, ready-to-use frameworks, and practical strategies. The workshop will also offer fine-tuned resources for language teachers and

Saturday, April 19

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Essential Teaching Skills for the Classrooms of Tomorrow (Lana Hiasat and Christine Coombe)

At a time where education has undergone so much change, it is a necessity to explore how to move forward

and learn and/or acquire the skills needed to navigate the classrooms of tomorrow. For me, the classroom of tomorrow is not just a physical space; it is a mindset that values continuous learning, adaptability, and the empowerment of students to shape their own educational journeys. Such a classroom will see traditional classroom instruction transition into a digital space, where students can connect with teachers and other students from around the world to collaborate on hands-on projects connected to their daily lessons and lives. With this shift, the list of skills that teachers must have or develop might seem endless. In this session, we explore the essential skills for modern teaching in the classrooms of tomorrow. From the hard skills like proficiency in educational technology/ AI and differentiated instruction to the soft skills of collaboration, self-care and wellbeing and increased global awareness, we discuss these skills and offer strategies on how to develop them.

Saturday, April 19
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Professional Development in the Digital Age (Lana Hiasat and Christine Coombe)

In the digital age in addition to more traditional means of professional development, English language teachers, can enhance their professional development through online courses, workshops, webinars, and virtual networking. Integrating technology into teaching practices enables educators to adopt innovative methodologies, collaborate globally, and engage in continuous learning, fostering ongoing professional growth.

Part III: **Redefining Your Teaching Journey:** **Transitioning to the Next Stage**

Sunday, April 20
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Forging a Path Toward Teacher Leadership in Language Education (Vincent Greenier)

Teacher leadership, defined as a set of qualities, characteristics, and behaviors that positively influence learning, is an essential but understated attribute of language teaching considering the diverse linguistic, cultural, psychosocial, and individual variables a teacher must navigate. This workshop provides an opportunity to explore how teachers can develop and embrace leadership skills through a series of interactive scenarios and practice-oriented activities.

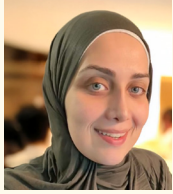
Sunday, April 20
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Transitioning to Your Next Chapter (Christine Coombe & Lana Hiasat)

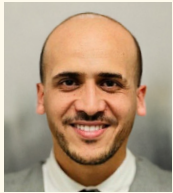
Transitioning from English Language Teaching (ELT) to retirement or new opportunities involves strategic planning. Identifying transferable skills, setting clear goals, and engaging in networking are essential steps. Exploring roles like consulting, curriculum development, content writing or creation, or corporate training can align with your expertise and help you in your retirement or a career pivot.

Final Online Wrap-Up - 1 week post conference (Lana Hiasat and Christine Coombe in addition to all session presenters)

Presenter Bios:



Sebah Al-Ali is a language teacher, teacher trainer, and educational researcher. She teaches research literacy and academic writing while leading initiatives in educational technology integration. She is also an Associate Editor at *Studies in Technology Enhanced Learning*. Al-Ali's research focuses on the intersection of technology-enhanced learning, higher education, and research literacy. Most recently, she led an 18-month study examining GenAI applications in education, resulting in the development of *the LAIK framework*—a practical guide for educators implementing GenAI in their teaching practice.



Moath Awawdeh (SMIEEE, CS) holds a Ph.D. in Control Engineering - Mathematical Engineering and Simulation from the University of Genova, Italy. With extensive experience in Industrial applications, engineering education, research, and curriculum development, his work focuses on outlier detection, data mining, embedded systems, moving horizon estimation, and artificial intelligence. Over the past decade, Dr. Awawdeh has played a pivotal role in local and international R&D projects, serving as a consultant for various initiatives. He holds key editorial and academic positions, including Editor-in-Chief of JAETS, Co-Chair of ASET conferences, and Editor-in-Chief of Omdena JAll, while actively reviewing for leading journals and conferences. Committed to bridging academia and industry, he has secured and facilitated over 1M AED in funded projects, contributing to peer-reviewed publications and industrial advancements. His recent collaborations include projects on embedded systems, deep learning, and measurement validation

models. Certified as a Blackboard Expert, Dr. Awawdeh specializes in digital teaching and competency-based training in IoT, embedded systems, deep learning, and applied AI. He serves as an advisory board member for AI-Enabled Bahrain and Tech Sierra Solutions Bahrain, and as Dean of Omdena Academy, where he supports AI and data science training, research, and project development initiatives across the MENA region.

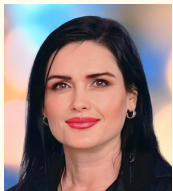


Seetha Sagaran is a Personal Development and Lifestyle Consultant, Trainer and Motivational Speaker with a background in English, Psychology, Counselling (UK), Hypnotherapy, Metaphor Therapy and Teaching Children with Special Needs (UK). She is also a Licensed Practitioner of Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP) from The Society of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (USA) and a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) from Toastmasters International (U.S.A). She has conducted Corporate, Educational, and Social Service & Welfare Training Workshops/ Motivational Sessions in the UAE, India, Seychelles, Canada and the UK. She has also served as a keynote speaker at conferences in the UAE, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Italy. Seetha has presented virtual keynotes and motivational sessions at conferences conducted in the Netherlands, UK, Australia, Turkey, Thailand, Malaysia, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Liberia, France, and Indonesia.



Vincent Greenier is an Associate Professor of English at the American University of Sharjah. Has been a language teacher and teacher educator for more than two decades, holding positions in the United States, South Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the UAE. His main research interests include creative approaches

to language teaching and learning, leadership and professionalism in ELT, language teacher education, language teacher identity, and innovative approaches to qualitative research. His articles can be found in *TESOL Quarterly*, *System*, *Journal of Education for Teaching*, and others.



Lana Hiasat is a senior lecturer and has a doctoral degree in educational leadership with a specialization in educational technology. She is also a Senior Fellow HEA (SFHEA) certified trainer in future

foresight, and a practitioner in intercultural intelligence, emotional intelligence, and Kaizen Creativity. Lana is the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award 2024 and has published in areas of future foresight, emotional intelligence, artificial intelligence, smart learning, blended learning, educational leadership, intercultural intelligence, and online teaching and learning. Lana has served as the co-chair for several international conferences. She was on the task force to develop the social sciences curriculum in the UAE and has developed a certification leadership training on emotional intelligence for educational leaders.



Christine Coombe has a Ph.D in Foreign/ Second Language Education from The Ohio State University and is an Associate Professor of General Studies at the Higher Colleges of Technology in the

UAE. Christine has co-authored/edited 60+ volumes on assessment/testing, research, teacher effectiveness, leadership and task-based teaching and learning. Dr Coombe served as TESOL International Association President (2011-2012) and as a member of the Board of Directors (2005-2007; 2010-2013). Christine received the British Council's International Assessment Award for 2013. Her most recent honors were being named to

TESOL's 50@50 which “recognizes professionals who have made significant contributions to the TESOL profession within the past 50 years.” In 2018 she received the Alatis Award for exemplary service to TESOL. She was named to the US Department of State's 30@30 list which recognizes the top 30 English Language Specialists over the past 30 years. Most recently, Christine was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of TIRF and as President of the English Language Testing Society.



جامعة الشارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH



Contact Information, email: info@tesolconferences.org

REGISTRATION FEES:

- Regular: 700 AED
- Onsite: 1000 AED

PDC COURSES:

- Pre Conference: 400 AED
- In-Conference: 700 AED

For registration:



MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

