

MA TESOL Team Meeting with Student Reps- AGENDA
12 March 2026, 11-12:30pm, Ellen Wilkinson B4.4

Staff in attendance: Zeynep Onat-Stelma (Programme Director), Paul Smith, Juup Stelma, Helen Choen Yin Chan (tutor), Nahielly Palacios, Richard Fay, Susan Dawson

Reps in attendance: Xinyu Cao (Lucia), Xiaoqian Cao (Ella), Manjie Gao (Michelle), Jiaxin Xu (Jessie)

1. Introductions and apologies for absence

Zeynep welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were presented for representative Mengxin Zhang (Molly).

2. Student Reports and Reviews/External Examiner Comments

Students' presentation:

Unit satisfaction

Developing Research Competence – Most students are satisfied. They think it is useful and very interesting. Sessions could conclude with a brief summary of key points. Better to get comments and feedback from step 1. IF we get to the last step and something is wrong we may have wasted effort. More detailed and procedures and steps would be helpful. EG when Qualtrics was introduced perhaps the tutor could give more instruction. This course has at least 3 tutors delivering it. We like listening to different tutors with different teaching styles.

Principled Materials and Course Design for TESOL – Most of the students are satisfied with 30% very satisfied. Course is very practical and helpful. Can give a holistic view of course design. Would be useful instead to design course for *our own students* not for next years MA TESOL. More examples during class would be helpful eg presentation and commentary. We need to know the details. Clearer instructions and release requirements for Block 1 assignment earlier.

The Education of Language Teachers – So important for us, we need to know how to improve ourselves in the future. Experiential learning in class (observation of teaching guests). Activities for engagement and discussion. Improvements – less discussion in class, but some wanted more. Sometimes it is theoretical and similar to other units this semester. Satisfaction was very high again. This and the previous course are very connected.

Introduction to Educational Video Production – Michael is very humorous and kind. Very knowledgeable. About 10 students in the MA TESOL chose this unit, so there are less comments. Most of them enjoy it. Feel the lecturer is very experienced. Lots of practical knowledge, very specific. Very useful for our future. Improvements – want the lecturer to give more examples about our assignments. We don't know what we are going to do in the assignment. What can we do to focus on the assignment. [Zeynep will pass this on as Michael is not part of the MA TESOL programme]

Blended Learning – not as familiar with this class, the rep who has taken it is in teaching at this time. Practical and relevant to teaching contexts. Provides a new perspective to design English classes. Improvements – some students would like to have more hands-on tutorial with specific tools such as AI or social media. Would prefer the lecturer to show step-by-step use of the tools.

Student experience:

Workload – given more research to complete in semester 2, different to semester 1. Workload is slightly heavier. But given good support.

Opportunities to connect with the TESOL profession – really appreciate the additional internship opportunities provided following feedback last semester. Personally had a very good experience with the experience programme on ESOL classes. Felt was learning a lot from the other volunteers. They have a different set of participants each session which provides a different experience.

Dissertation preparation - many finding it hard to identify a research topic. However they believe once they get started they will be fine.

“What advice would you give to the TESOL programme? – Would like to see materials before each session so they can prepare. Want to have more opportunities for feedback on my own teaching. Thanks so much to all tutors

3. Any other business

No other business was raised.

10. Future meetings TBC