

# A New Career Teaching the English Language

*Ian Bradley*



After a successful 37-year career in the military, it can be difficult deciding on what to do next. Having settled in Cyprus, it became apparent there was scope for teaching English as a foreign language. With 3 years' worth of Enhanced Learning Credits to use, I began to look around for a suitable training course. I was fortunate enough to know someone from RAF Akrotiri who had qualified with the Trinity CertTESOL, and he highly recommended me to use the Lewis School of English.

## Theory & Teaching Practice

Following an interview with the course director, Mrs Richenda Askew, I was accepted onto the course and in June 2014, I flew over to the UK to begin the training. The course is run by highly skilled tutors who provide an enormous amount of support to guide you through what is an extremely testing 4 weeks – the word 'crocodiles' will become very familiar. The provision of real students for the 6 hours of teaching required to pass the high standards of Trinity College London proved invaluable. However, anyone considering taking this Level 5 course should be prepared to work long hours, including weekends, as there is a considerable amount of additional work in producing assignments.

## Helpful Tutors

The Lewis School is in the heart of Southampton and is a very pleasant working environment. Although the workload is high, the staff are constantly on hand – even online in the evenings – to assist you if you are struggling to prepare lesson plans. Weekly tutor assessments are given to each of the trainees to offer guidance on areas you need to concentrate on. Following each lesson, a trainee/tutor feedback session takes place, with written feedback from the tutors. This feedback is used for a reflective log that you prepare each evening as one of your assignments. In addition to the teaching, trainees are required to:

- interview a student to create a Learner Profile, producing a one-to-one lesson with a needs analysis for future lessons
- produce a piece of lesson material to present to the Trinity moderator on the final day

Accommodation for the course is easy to arrange through the school administrators, who were very helpful from start to finish. I stayed with a family in Southampton who, as well as being incredibly supportive during the course, fed and watered me constantly!

## A Rewarding Challenge

I can honestly say that the course at Lewis School of English was the most challenging academic course I have ever attempted, but it was also the most rewarding. The moment when a foreign student comes up to you to say thank you for teaching them is something has to be experienced.



For more information about our CertTESOL course, visit [www.lewis-school.co.uk](http://www.lewis-school.co.uk) or contact Richenda Askew at [richenda@lewis-school.co.uk](mailto:richenda@lewis-school.co.uk) or on +44 23 8022 8203.