International Study and Language Institute

Professional development course for Chinese university lecturers, provided for Sichuan Normal University (SICNU)

Pedagogy in Higher Education

Delivered online with one week in person

Proposal dated 9th September 2024.

Contexts and overall aims

This online professional development course is tailor-made for academic staff from a wide range of schools in SICNU who teach both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Taking an overall reflective approach, the course will review general approaches to Teaching & Learning in UK Higher Education, with a focus on classroom pedagogy.

The overall aims of the course are:
- to enhance staff capabilities in delivering higher education in China in the context of new developments such as AI
- to analyse Higher Education learning theories
- to compare Chinese and British experiences of Higher Education Teaching & Learning
- to embrace digitalised teaching and learning
- to promote the development of an international outlook.

Learning Outcomes

LO 1. Enhance participants' understanding of theories underpinning HE and promote application in their own practice;

LO 2. Apply the active learning approach in participants' own practice;

LO 3. Improve participants' classroom and online teaching skills;

LO 4. Promote independent learning guided by principles encouraged in British Higher Education;

LO 5. Encourage critical thinking in participants' teaching;

LO 6. Promote TEL in the participants' context;

LO 7. Become familiar with the British Higher Education perspective assessing students and providing feedback;

LO 8. Apply other specific skills in their profession such as skills for presentation, and research writing. (personal skills development).

LO 9. Increase participants' awareness of how AI is transforming teaching and learning, and equip them to effectively adapt to and manage these changes and their impact.

Training syllabus is as follows:

Week	Topic	Relevant LO
1	Current pedagogical theories in Higher Education Chinese & British Higher Education Teaching & Learning	LO1
2	Pedagogy 1 - Active learning	LO2
	Pedagogy 2 - Effective questioning	
3	Pedagogy 3 - Independent learning	LO4
	Pedagogy 4 - Embedding critical thinking in teaching	LO5
4	Pedagogy 5 – Approaches to using AI in teaching	LO9
5	AI guest sessions	LO9
6	Pedagogy 6 – TEL approaches and online teaching methods; AI teaching tools Education in the age of AI (China context)	LO6 LO9 all
7	Reflection and action plans	all
8	Experiences of teaching & learning UK & China	all
9	Research Writing skills	LO8
10	Assessment and feedback in Higher Education; AI and assessment	LO7 LO9

11	*In person at SICNU:*
	    Assessment and feedback in Higher Education
	    Presentation of Reflection action plans
	    Review workshops
		all

In response to feedback from participants on the 2023 programme, the course will include more of the following:

- Case studies and examples of current teaching practice.
- Interviews with Chinese students and post-doctoral researchers in the UK.
- AI in Education.

Taking a context-sensitive approach, this programme is based on a thorough pre-course analysis of the participants' own teaching situation. The above training syllabus may therefore be adapted slightly to meet the needs of the participants.

Participants

The number of participants will be 25. The online classes will be delivered all at once to the whole group for each session, where each individual will have their own separate log in. Access will be given to each individual on the condition that fee payment has been received in full (see below for fees). A leader (fee-waived) will manage the course and be the main liaison with UoR to support a smooth delivery.

Mode

Most sessions are online though Microsoft Teams. The online sessions will be held two times per week, through Microsoft Teams, where each participant will be provided with their own login. Participants will need to arrange the installing of the Teams app before the first session. Each online Teams session will consist of 1.5 hours' synchronous live teaching.

The final week of the course will be delivered in-person at the SICNU campus in Chengdu. This is likely to consist of three in-person group sessions of two hours per session.

Proposed dates

The 11-week period is as follows:

Start date: Tuesday 8th October (date of first online session)

End date: Friday 20th December (date of last session)

Participant experience and English ability

Participants will be expected to interact fully in the activities presented and will receive every encouragement to communicate effectively in English. All participants should be confident enough in their English language to fully participate, from the start of the training.

Attendance and Certification

Participants are expected to attend the whole course. Each participant will be awarded a University of Reading Certificate of Attendance upon completion of the course.

Fees

TOTAL FEE for 25 participants = £24,750

SICNU will be responsible for the payment of the fees in full. If decided by SICNU, the fees may be paid individually by each participant at the rate of **£990 per person.**
If SICNU are unable to recruit 25 participants SICNU will pay any shortfall in the fee.

This Tuition Fee covers the costs of:
- Providing teaching hours equivalent to 3 hrs/week for 11 weeks plus 6 hrs during the in-person week;
- Preparation for teaching, including producing teaching materials;
- Administrative duties such as liaison with client and preparing certification;
- All relevant costs to cover travel to China by lecturer from the University of Reading to deliver three days' in-person training in Chengdu:
    - Preparation for the trip, including costs such as the China visa fee.
    - Return flight London UK – Chengdu China.
    - Airport transfer (UK & China).
    - Hotel accommodation, subsistence and local travel in Chengdu.

For further information, please contact:

Associate Professor Bruce Howell
Head of External Engagement
International Study and Language Institute (ISLI)
University of Reading

Email: d.b.howell@reading.ac.uk