

## Transcript

### Welcome to TELT, Teachers Learning to Teach Languages in primary schools

**Contents:** the TELT programme: an overview, experiences of teaching and studying on the programme, impact of the programme, next steps.

### What is TELT?

TEachers Learning to Teach Languages is delivered by the Open University in Wales in collaboration with the Open University in Scotland and Scotland's National Centre for Languages. The programme aims to increase and improve the uptake of international languages provision in primary schools. As continual professional development, teachers are offered the opportunity to simultaneously learn a new language and the skills to teach that language in the classroom. The programme is open to all primary school teachers across all four nations and enables participants to engage and collaborate with teachers from across the UK.

### The New Curriculum in Wales:

The languages, literacy, and communication area in the new curriculum in Wales addresses fundamental aspects of human communication. It aims to support learning across the whole curriculum and to enable learners to gain knowledge and skills in Welsh, English and international languages as well as in literature. It aims to encourage learners to transfer what they have learned about how languages work in one specific language to the learning and use of other languages. This multilingual and plurilingual approach is intended to promote pupil's curiosity and enthusiasm and provide them with a firm foundation for a lifelong interest in the languages of Wales and the world. Through embedding international languages in the classroom and applying a holistic teaching approach, the TELT modules also provide guidance on how to integrate languages into other subject areas too.

### How does it work?

TELT is a distance learning programme. There are two strands: international language learning and the pedagogy of teaching a language. Students study a language of their choice at either beginners or post-beginners' level in French, German, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish. On completion of a TELT module students are awarded a certificate of completion and automatically gain 15 Open University credits which can be used towards an Open Degree.

The pedagogy strand is taught at postgraduate level and covers a variety of topics such as embedding languages, playing and games, engaging with target language cultures, interdisciplinary learning and languages, and developing writing and reading skills.

### What is the right level of language for me?

Starting language learning from scratch can be done successfully, by busy professionals and with complex languages like Chinese. The TELT programme has shown us that teaching a new language at primary level can bring exciting new ways of working in class as both teachers and pupils learn together. We recommend you carefully consider the level you want to study. Previous experience that might have come from exposure to a language in different contexts might not be sufficient to start at the post beginner level (A2) as it is important not to miss out key structures and vocabulary that are taught at beginners' level (A1). It is worth mentioning that every year TELT students consistently achieve high scores in the module assessment. No teacher learner has failed the course because of poor attainment, only through non submission of the assignments.

Some of you might have previous language learning experience and already have the equivalent of level A1 enabling you to go straight into a post-beginner language module. However, if you already feel confident and have A2 level in one of the TELT languages, you might want to consider starting a new language. Consider this as an opportunity to branch out to try something different-and add an additional new language to your own professional portfolio. Get in touch if you need guidance on this. One of our tutors can assist on level assessment. We teach the four languages in the same way, using the same approach.

### **What language should I opt for?**

Your choice of language might be determined by your school, cluster, or local authority.

### **How the pedagogy study works.**

The pedagogy strand has a strong reflective approach, designed to develop the skills you need to teach languages in the primary classroom and develop your pupils' language and literacy skills. It explores current thinking about the theory and practice of primary languages teaching, familiarizes you with key pedagogical concepts around embedding languages in daily classroom routines, uses multimedia to introduce you to teaching methods in and outside the classroom and guides you in applying your new knowledge and skills in your own teaching context. Part of the course work will take place on a dedicated website and in online tutorials, but you will also spend time trying out what you have learned and reflecting on this with fellow students.

There are five units in total and each unit has the following parts: input, tutorial, application, beyond the classroom, and further engagement. You must successfully complete at least four out of the five application tasks to pass the pedagogy.

### **The language strand.**

It is designed to develop the skills you need to speak and understand simple language in everyday contexts. It explores life and culture in countries and communities where these languages are spoken, introducing you to a wide range of practical situations such as travelling, shopping, working, and eating out. Study resources include printed materials and a dedicated website with a variety of online activities which support independent learning. You will have the support of a tutor throughout the whole process. Together, they will give you not just language skills but a real feel for cultures too.

### **How the language study works.**

On the website, you will find a study planner, materials, and language activities to practice the four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and talking. In total you will cover five units with three tutorials per unit. The tutorials are not compulsory, but attendance is highly recommended. In terms of assignments, you will have to submit two computer mark assignments and two tutor mark assignments (TMA). The TMAs will be speaking and written assignments.

### **The e-twinning programme**

TELT student teachers and their pupils also have the opportunity to collaborate with peers in different parts of the UK as part of their TELT study. They can opt to participate in an e-twinning program which offers exciting opportunities for language learning and practical activities to develop teaching practice. Open University digital badges are awarded to all schools and pupils who take part in this initiative.

### **The impact of TELT study.**

Schools that have participated in the programme have reported a positive impact on teachers, pupils, and the wider school community. By studying these modules, teachers acquire the practical pedagogy skills about how to best introduce and embed languages in the curriculum. Teacher feedback has shown that this has had a positive impact on classroom practice and report an increased level of enthusiasm and interest from their pupils in terms of language learning, and a renewed engagement in classroom language activities. Very often the school community, teachers, parents, and carers have consequently become involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities and further engagement tasks which contribute to the success of language teaching and learning. Many teachers consider that taking part in TELT has enhanced their professional profile and CPD record and in some cases led to job opportunities and promotions.

### **How much work does it require?**

TELT requires a total of nine months study with around five hours of online study each week. Part of the study time is task application in the classroom. Participants collaborate and share ideas and practice through course forums and social media and take part in online tutorials that are spread evenly throughout the school year. Delivery is online with the possibility of two face-to-face day schools. There is a high level of flexibility built into the programme which includes some flexibility for assessment submission deadlines. All online tutorials are recorded.

### **Next steps.**

Find out more on the TELT website Wales.

[Teachers learning to teach languages \(TELT\) | Open University in Wales](#)

### **How to sign up.**

The TELT programme in Wales is supported and funded by Global Futures Wales and available to all in-service primary teachers in Wales. Each Education Consortia Lead for languages will manage the registration process with their respective schools and will submit all applications to the Open University in Wales in early September. Once completed, you will directly receive an Open University login and online induction details in mid-late September. The programme starts each year at the beginning of October.

Please, keep an eye on our website.

Thank you. Diolch.