

Teaching English as a second language to adults

Terry O'Brien

The year I retired I enrolled in CELTA – Cambridge University's Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults – which is run by a number of certified providers in NSW, e.g. UTS and International House. It cost about \$3000 and, rather than the intensive one month course, I chose to do the part time course over three months with lectures every second Saturday, teaching practice two evenings a week and four assignments in the form of detailed units of work. I did need to brush up on my English grammar and the teaching methods are very formulaic but it was more time-demanding than difficult.

Although this could have led to opportunities to work in Asia (China and Vietnam) as well as in English language colleges in Sydney on a part time, fulltime or casual basis, I used it to volunteer – teaching a weekly local community ESL class for adults, focusing on listening and speaking. I have met some wonderful people from all over the world, enjoyed being back in the classroom and highly recommend the course to anyone seeking work or volunteering in this sphere.

Useful references

<http://www.insearch.edu.au/Courses/Teacher-Training>

<http://ihsydney.com.au/teach-english/cambridge-celta/>

Contributor details

Terry O'Brien (terrylobrien@gmail.com) 23/2/17



Terry was Principal at Penshurst Girls High School then Oatley Senior Campus of Georges River College, as well as Policy Leader for the Digital Education Revolution one-to-one laptop program. Since retiring, she and two other colleagues formed SPICE Educational Evaluations working directly with principals. She also volunteers teaching English as a second language in her local community.