

Webinar 24 March 2021 : Innovative sustainable online language teaching – social media and the adult EAL/D classroom

Presenter bios

Sharon Leslie

Sharon Leslie is the Director of English Language Programs at Southern Cross University, Australia. In this role she leads a teaching team that works across pathway, undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Sharon has worked for almost two decades in English language education in Australia. Before joining Southern Cross University as a lecturer in 2015, she also worked as an English as an additional language (EAL) advisory visiting teacher with Education Queensland, as a teacher in migrant education with TAFE and as a teacher and manager in ELICOS Colleges. Sharon is a qualified IELTS Examiner and worked for eight years with QUT in that role.

Sharon holds a Master of Education (TESOL), a Bachelor of Education (Honours) a Graduate Diploma of Education and a Bachelor of Arts (Applied Linguistics). She is also currently completing doctoral studies in teacher identity. Sharon is active in Qatesol and UECA and her research interests include teacher identity, international pathway programs and international student identity and engagement.

(Sharon studied her Bachelor in Argentina so she understands first-hand the life of students studying at universities in foreign countries.)

Neil McRudden



Originally from Sydney, Neil McRudden graduated from Macquarie University in 1993. Neil has been teaching English as a Second Language since 2000 and has taught at language institutes and universities in Sweden, Malaysia, Germany and Australia. Throughout his career, Neil has taught English in many contexts: general, business, examination preparation and bespoke courses tailor-designed for specific companies. However, it is university preparation for international students that interests him the most.

Neil has been teaching in the College at Southern Cross University's Gold Coast campus since 2014 and has taught university preparation programs for SCU domestic and international students. He has mostly taught English for Academic Purposes and he finds it incredibly rewarding to watch international students develop confidence in their language and academic skills throughout their journey at SCU. Neil has also worked in SCU's Academic Skills department and has often had the chance to see SCU College graduates again during assignment consultations. Having the opportunity to compare the progress of international students who have completed EAP with those who have not has underlined the value of this course to Neil.

Neil completed a Master of Applied Linguistics from UNE in 2020 and is looking forward to conducting research in the area of international education, in particular, cross-cultural academic expectations and learning techniques, and the development of strategies to aid international student success and development of core academic skills.

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Zoe Hancock

Zoe Hancock has been teaching English for more than 20 years. After teaching in Japan, she returned to Australia to complete a MA in Applied Linguistics at UTS in 2007. She then went onto teach at the English Language Centre at the University of New England (UNE), Armidale and several private colleges and universities in both Sydney and Brisbane primarily in the area of EAP and direct entry programs. Zoe has also been involved in teacher training, delivering Masters level units in TESOL & Pronunciation at UNE and is currently leading a pioneering post entry academic literacy unit at Southern Cross University where she has been employed since 2016. Her areas of interest include academic literacy development, teacher training and spending time with her two beautiful children.