

ENGLISH & MATHS & ESOL

CONFERENCE

Tuesday 19 November 2024
10am – 12.45pm

#EMESOLConf24



ONLINE
EVENT

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Introduction

The change of government following this year's general election creates a major opportunity to ensure that adult literacy, numeracy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) are high on the new Government's agenda for skills.

At Learning and Work Institute's online English, Maths and ESOL Conference 2024, we'll be discussing this and more. Each year, the conference, which has been running for over 20 years, is a forum for policymakers, providers, practitioners and researchers to discuss a range of issues in essential skills.



English, Maths and ESOL Conference

Full agenda for 2024

Tuesday 19 November 2024 | 10.00am–12.45pm

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10am

Welcome

Stephen Evans, Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute

10.10am

Learner voices: in conversation with Stephen Evans

Albana Bisha is a student at Nottingham College, winners of the President's award at the Festival of Learning 2024. The college leads a transformative partnership with local stakeholders to deliver a truly holistic, multi-agency ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) service across the city and communities it serves.

After being badly bullied at school and leaving with no qualifications, **Donna Ridings** returned to learning at the age of 50. From her initial start as a shy member of both her Functional Skills English and Maths classes, Donna is now an inspiration to her peers, volunteers with her local community club and plans to continue learning into the future. Donna was a finalist in the Festival of Learning for 2024.

Helen Tkachenko arrived in the UK with her family as a war refugee from Ukraine. While completing her ESOL and Community Interpreting courses at Redbridge Institute of Adult Education, she volunteered to support others from the Ukrainian community, setting up a dedicated community centre. Helen is now a valuable member of the team at Work Redbridge, where she helps people find education and employment opportunities. Helen was awarded the English Language Learning award at the Festival of Learning 2024.

10.30am

Panel discussion: New government, new opportunities for adult essential skills

An estimated nine million working-age adults in England have low basic skills in literacy or numeracy, among whom five million have low skills in both. However, the number of adults improving these skills has halved over the past decade in England and the adult education budget is £1 billion lower in real terms.

The new government has announced a number of initiatives on further education and skills, including establishing Skills England, a qualifications and curriculum review and a commitment to further devolution. What are the opportunities to put adult essential skills high on the agenda, and what challenges remain?

Speakers:

- Chair: Naomi Clayton, Learning and Work Institute
- Simon Parkinson, WEA
- Simon Ashworth, AELP
- Rhianwen Roberts, UCU

11.30am

Break

11.45am

Breakout 1: OECD's Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) – what practitioners need to know**JOIN**

The OECD's Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) is designed to assess working-age adults' (16-65) numeracy, literacy and digital skills, and collects data from 24 countries. With the next set of results due to be released on 10 December 2024, we take a deep dive into what PIAAC is, its opportunities, limitations, and how the sector can respond.

Speakers:

- Chair: Tara Furlong, RaPAL
- Hazel Klenk, Learning and Work Institute
- David Mallows, Institute of Education, UCL
- Stephen Mayne, Department for Education
- Estera Mozina, Slovenian Institute of Adult Education

11.45am

Breakout 2: Adult education devolution: The impact on ESOL**JOIN**

Since 2019 the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is no longer accountable for the totality of the Adult Skills Fund (formerly Adult Education Budget). Mayoral Combined Authorities are making increasing use of devolved flexibilities to improve access to ESOL. What's worked so far and what are the challenges?

Speakers:

- Chair: Paul Sceeny, NATECLA
- Bell Foundation
- Miguel Silva, West Midlands Combined Authority
- Emma Taylor, Migration Yorkshire

11.45am

Breakout 3: Supporting young adults with English and maths**JOIN**

This session will focus on how best to support young adults to get the English and maths skills needed for life and for work. How can policy, such as GCSE re-sits and on English and maths in apprenticeships, support good outcomes for young people? We will also consider the role of practitioners, and what needs to be in place for them to best support young people to achieve outcomes.

Speakers:

- Chair: Alex Stevenson, Learning and Work Institute
- Andrew Otty, FE English expert and writer
- Dr Joanne Bowser-Angermann, Anglia Ruskin University
- Sarah Waite, Get Further
- Nathan Rogan, The Education and Training Foundation

12.45pm

Close

WEBINAR

PIAAC 2024: What does it mean for UK essential skills?

12 noon | Thursday 12 December 2024

Sign up today

L&W LEARNING AND WORK INSTITUTE



EDUCATION & TRAINING FOUNDATION

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Our Teaching Maths Functional Skills (Level 5) course equips new, transitioning, and seasoned educators with the tools to inspire, engage, and empower students in the world of Functional Skills Maths.

What will you learn?

Break down barriers: Learn dynamic strategies to motivate even the most reluctant learners.

Real-world relevance: Connect maths to everyday life and vocational paths, making lessons meaningful.

Hands-on skills: Master active teaching methods that foster problem-solving, decision-making, and critical thinking.

Ready for assessment: Develop assessment techniques that support learner growth and prepare them for success.

Who is it for?

Perfect for FE and Skills educators, including those from independent providers and adult community education. It's especially useful for those who do not currently hold a specific teaching qualification in maths.

How is the course taught?

You'll attend 10 two-hour webinars delivered over 10 weeks (one session each week), plus independent study. This course starts on 21 November – limited spaces still available.

Book now at

↗ ETFOUNDATION.CO.UK/FunctionalMaths

EDUCATION & TRAINING FOUNDATION

A message from our sponsor

Every day, educators and leaders across the further education (FE) and Skills sector inspire curiosity, drive progress and empower learners to achieve their potential. The Education and Training Foundation (ETF) is here to champion the vital role of the FE and Skills workforce.

Working in partnership, we drive professionalism by setting the professional standards for the quality of teaching and leadership across the sector. We provide educators with a pathway of professional development throughout their careers, champion inclusion and enable sector change for a thriving FE and Skills sector. Together, we are transforming lives and opportunities for learners aged 14 and above.



“Whilst there’s no doubt we need to use past exam questions in our lessons, the risk is we disengage learners and, potentially the teachers themselves, teaching the same lesson structure day in, day out. Teachers need time for effective continuous professional development so that they can motivate and engage learners”

Check out [our blog](#) from ETF's Nathan Rogan, Senior Education Advisor, and Nicola Pearton, Education Advisor.



Nathan will be contributing to our workshop on English and maths for young people. Find out more on p. 4.





Our partners

NATECLA

NATECLA (National Association for Teaching English and other Community Languages to Adults) is the national forum and professional organisation for ESOL teachers. NATECLA aims to advance all aspects of education and training in English for adult speakers of other languages for the public benefit. We provide a professional forum for ESOL and community language teachers, managers, and allies, as well as advocating for more inclusive and accessible ESOL provision.



RaPAL

Research and Practice in Adult Literacies (RaPAL) is the only UK-wide organisation that focuses on the role of literacies in adult life. We promote effective and innovative practices in adult literacies teaching, learning and research; and support adult literacies practitioners and researchers. We enjoy engaging in debates that touch on English language and literacy, numeracy and digital skills across homes, communities and workplaces. Through our members, digital journals, conferences and policy and advocacy work, we are active in Europe and have international links.





The University and College Union (UCU) represents over 120,000 academics, lecturers, trainers, instructors, researchers, managers, administrators, computer staff, librarians, technicians, professional staff and postgraduates in universities, colleges, prisons, adult education and training organisations across the UK. UCU's Respect FE campaign, built on the union's experiences in recent years, is about laying the foundations for a New Deal for FE.



IOE is UCL's Faculty of Education and Society. From legacy to innovation, we have been shaping policy and helping government, organisations and individuals to navigate a radically changing society for the last 120 years. Working across education, culture, psychology and social science, we create lasting and evolving change in a real-world context. We embrace cross-pollination, collaboration and excellence to create a future that is inclusive and just. We do this through world-leading education, research and enterprise, and have been ranked number one for education worldwide every year since 2014 in the QS World University Rankings.





About Learning and Work Institute

Learning and Work Institute (L&W) is an independent policy and research organisation focused on lifelong learning and better work. Our vision is for a fair and prosperous society where learning and work enable everyone to realise their potential. We research what works, influence policy and develop new ideas to improve practice.

Our priorities for 2024-29 are:

- Lifelong learning
- Essential skills
- Employment
- Better work

Our work on essential skills focuses on identifying the benefits of building essential skills, understanding how to engage adults in learning and exploring the most effective ways of delivering essential skills learning.