



Training Course in:
Teaching and Learning in Special
Education: The Icelandic Perspective

Iceland



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About the course

There has been an increased focus on improving special education at European level, moving towards a curriculum that believes that all children and young people have the right to have their individual needs met. A well performing education system supports change through the use of new technologies and methodologies that allows special educators to break down barriers to learning.

Therefore, improving the quality of teaching and learning through an active research and internationalisation plan that supports the development the skills of those involved in providing such education, is paramount in achieving excellence in special education and increasing the participation rates and fulfilment into society.

This five-day course is designed for special education staff and it aims to improve knowledge and understanding of approaches and practice from within the Icelandic Education system. The course methodology encourages active participation, sharing of good practice and reflection of approaches used to improve the provision and the quality of education. The course is delivered by experienced facilitators, offering a culturally rich learning experience. It includes visits and interaction with schools in Iceland with the

opportunity to observe and evaluate practice in 'another country'. This exposure and interaction also offers the potential to develop links for future partnership work.

Course specific educational aims

The course aims to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the special education system in Iceland in order to broaden participants' understanding of practices and policies in order to operate within an international setting
- increase competencies with in each participant's own practice and work collaboratively in developing plans for modernisation and of own practice
- develop an understanding of the use of new technologies in the Icelandic special education system and other available support mechanisms
- provide an opportunity to share good practice and evaluate personal practice in order to integrate new approaches.

Course dates

Iceland (Reykjavik)

Refer to website





Who the course is for

Courses are aimed at teaching and non-teaching staff in special education . The course is designed to meet the needs of the target group and delivered according to this.

In particular, the following staff may apply:

- established teachers and newly qualified teachers who would like to develop and enhance their practice within a European context
- governors, staff and advisors who work supporting such staff
- coordinators who work to develop curriculum provision within their school/centre

Course methodology and approach



The course encourages the adoption of creative approaches and includes specific sessions on developing and evaluating strategies used within the observed system. It also includes sessions to develop partnership work with teachers and educators from within Europe, as well as other activities available under the Erasmus+ Programme.

During the week attendees will be encouraged to reflect on their learning journey and will be tasked with working together to develop a plan of action to implement upon their return. These will be shared within the group and uploaded to a public website so that teachers within the wider educational

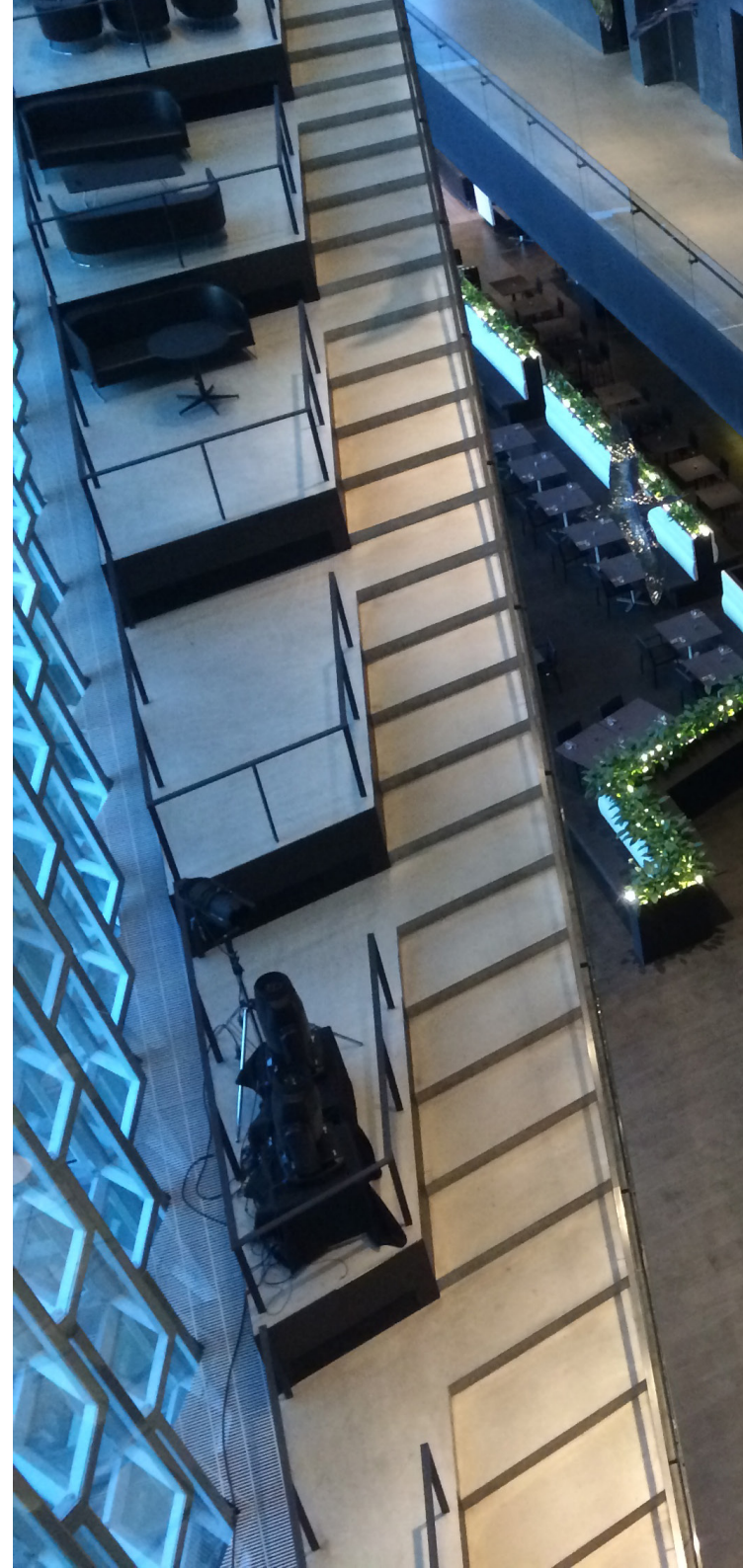
community can learn from their experience. This work forms an integral part of the dissemination activities that attendees will undertake upon their return.

Throughout the week a variety of sessions will be facilitated with specific teaching and learning aims.

These include:

- evaluation and reflection of practice
- cultural understanding
- visits to educational establishments for observation of practice and an opportunity to make links for future partnership work.

Attendees will evaluate their experience at the end of each day and the course will culminate in an end of week evaluation session and exhibition of participants' work.





Pre-course and follow-up activities

A website, with a blog, will be set up prior to the course in order to encourage communication between participants. The site will be used to disseminate pre-course work and to encourage delegates to initiate a dialogue between themselves and course facilitators.

Delegates will be sent resources and reading materials as part of the pre-course preparation. They will be asked to prepare a presentation on aspect of their school environment to share with other delegates on the course as well as prepare a presentation about they own setting and country models.

Once back in their own country, participants will be encouraged to continue networking with other participants and course trainers. All materials developed during the week will be uploaded on the website and additional web links will be shared to continue learning beyond the end of the course. Delegates will be encouraged to continue sharing good practice and, through the website, disseminate additional materials developed post course.

Course evaluation

Attendees will be supported in evaluating their learning throughout the week, within both formal and informal contexts, such as cultural visits and organised social excursions. They will carry out a formal evaluation at the end of each day and this will feed into the summative evaluation at the end of the week. The summative assessment will take the form of a questionnaire and a focus group report, together with an exhibition and formal presentation of the group-work developed.

Course certification

A course-specific certificate will be provided at the end of the training week, together with the Europass Mobility Certificate.

Organisation of course activities (including teaching, cultural events, accommodation and subsistence)

All aspects of the course are taken care of by the LEAP Ltd trainers and advisors:

- accommodation based on two sharing (see page 8 for details of accommodation)
- all sessions are included and delivered either at a partner training centre or school
- the cost includes all meals throughout the week, local travel and specific cultural visits and excursions as specified in the detailed programme.
- travel to and from the airport in the target country is included in the grant.

Costs of any other arrangements outside the detailed programme will not be met by the organisers.





Cost of course and funding opportunities

The cost of the course, including course fee, pre-course assignments and support, accommodation, meals and travel to and from the venue, can be funded through the Erasmus+ Programme under the Key Action 1 (Learning Mobility of Individuals). The application for funding is made by the employer of the participant(s).

To apply for the grant, organisations must reside in one of the eligible countries within the Erasmus+ Programme (for UK applicants, visit <http://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/how-to-apply>, or contact our team who will provide further help and guidance). For all other countries, please visit <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

Total cost of course is €1050 which includes:

4 nights accommodation in shared rooms and all meals

Course fee of €350

Accommodation details

All participants will be accommodated in shared rooms in a modern hotel near the city centre.

Travel to and from Iceland

Reykjavik Airport is approximately 45 minutes from the city centre. A shuttle bus runs regularly from the airport to the city centre.

Many airlines provide frequent flights to Reykjavik.

Visit www.skyscanner.net to see some options.

Location of the course

Despite a relatively short history, Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland, hosts many places of interest, such as: *Hallgrímskirkja* church, whose tower can be seen from almost everywhere in the city and the *Imagine Peace Tower*, whose construction and installation was realised in collaboration with Yoko Ono, the City of Reykjavik, Reykjavik Art Museum and Reykjavik Energy.

For more information on Reykjavik visit <http://www.visitreykjavik.is>



Daily programme of activities

Sunday	
16.00	Registration & welcome by the organisers and trainers
18.00	Official opening of training event and detailed presentation of training programme and arrangements. During this session, delegates will be set a group task.
19.00	Dinner at local traditional restaurant

Monday	
7.00-8.30	Breakfast at hotel
8.30 – 9.00	Registration and Transfer to school
9.00- 12.00	Session 1 Visit to an educational establishment for observation of practice and networking
12.30-13.30	Lunch
14.00	Transfer to training venue
14.00-16.00	Session 2 Reflection and Discussion: Commonalities and differences in approaches and strategies
16.15-16.30	End of day evaluation and discussion
16.30	Return to hotel
20.00	Dinner

Tuesday	
7.00-8.30	Breakfast at hotel
8.30 – 9.00	Registration and Transfer to school
9.00- 12.00	Session 3 Visit to an educational establishment for observation of practice and networking
12.30-13.30	Lunch
14.00	Transfer to training venue

14.00-15.30	Session 4 Reflection and Discussion: Commonalities and differences in approaches and strategies
15.30-15.45	End of day evaluation and discussion
16.00	Session 5 Walking tour of the city
20.00	Dinner

Wednesday	
7.00-8.30	Breakfast at hotel
8.30 – 9.00	Registration and Transfer to school
9.00- 12.00	Session 6 Visit to an educational establishment for observation of practice and networking
12.30-13.30	Lunch
14.00	Transfer to training venue
14.00-15.30	Session 7 Reflection and Discussion: Our learning in practice Planning session
15.30-16.30	Presentation and exhibition of work
17.00	Return to hotel
20.00	Dinner

Thursday	
7.00-8.30	Breakfast at hotel
9.00-12.00	Presentation of Certificates, Individual Evaluation and Action Plan
12.00	Official goodbye from the team



How to register

The initial stage of application is to complete the registration form.

You can complete an electronic version available at www.leaponline.eu or as a Word document on request from:

info@leaponline.eu

Once the registration form has been received, we will notify the applicant with a confirmation e-mail with guidance on applying for the relevant funding.

For additional information, please visit the Language Education And Partnerships website at:

www.leaponline.eu





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