

UECA PD Fest 2012

at the Centre for English Teaching

Closing Keynote

Future Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers at
University Centres of English & ELICOS Colleges

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
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- Focus Question #1 – “If you could give one piece of advice to someone several stages behind you in their career as a ESL Teacher, what would it be?”
- Focus Question #2 – “What skills and strategies does the ESL Teacher of the Future need and how can this be resourced as professional development within the community?”


› **Focus Question 1 – advice:**

-observe, listen, follow up initial training, say yes to opportunities, self reflection using video, treat all students as individuals, keep it simple, don't talk too much, sense of humour, reduce teacher talk, never be afraid to admit you don't know, don't be afraid to let the students take you somewhere unplanned, learn a language/e-learning


› **Focus Question 2 – skills and professional development**

-mixed modes of delivery – offshore and in country, teacher will still be facilitator, face-to-face will still be important, keep up to date with tech, be flexible, keep up to date with student needs, awareness of diversity of students, global environment so intercultural awareness important.

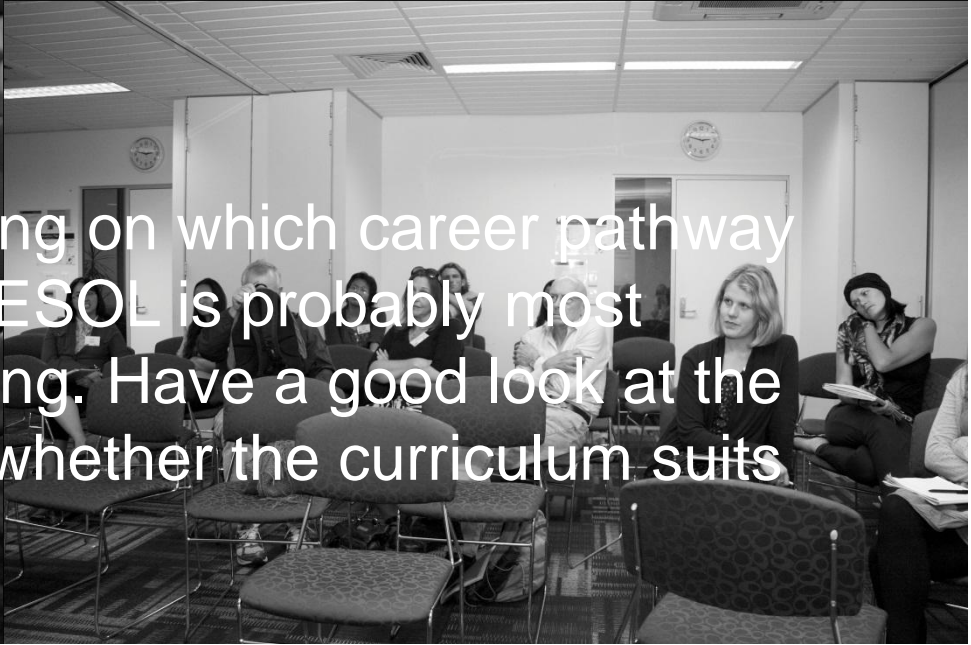
- **Training** in tech and cultural awareness, everyone has a fair go at knowledge, use staff skills, mentor inexperienced teachers, observe experienced and inexperienced teachers at own and other institutions, experiment with online communities for self and students, succession plans, online and face-to-face SIGs



Which Masters degree would be most beneficial to progress in this field?




Variety of options, depending on which career pathway you want to follow. M.Ed TESOL is probably most practical or all encompassing. Have a good look at the individual course and see whether the curriculum suits you.

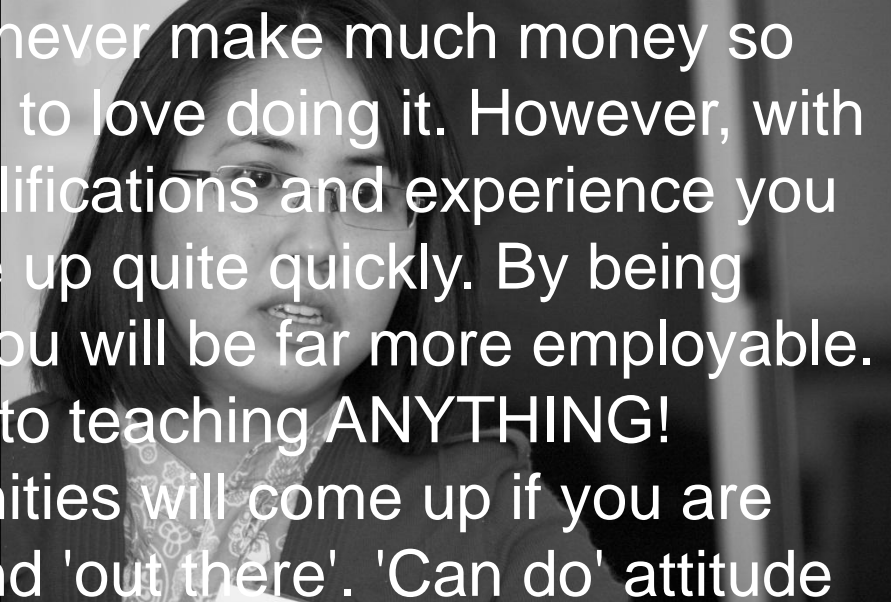
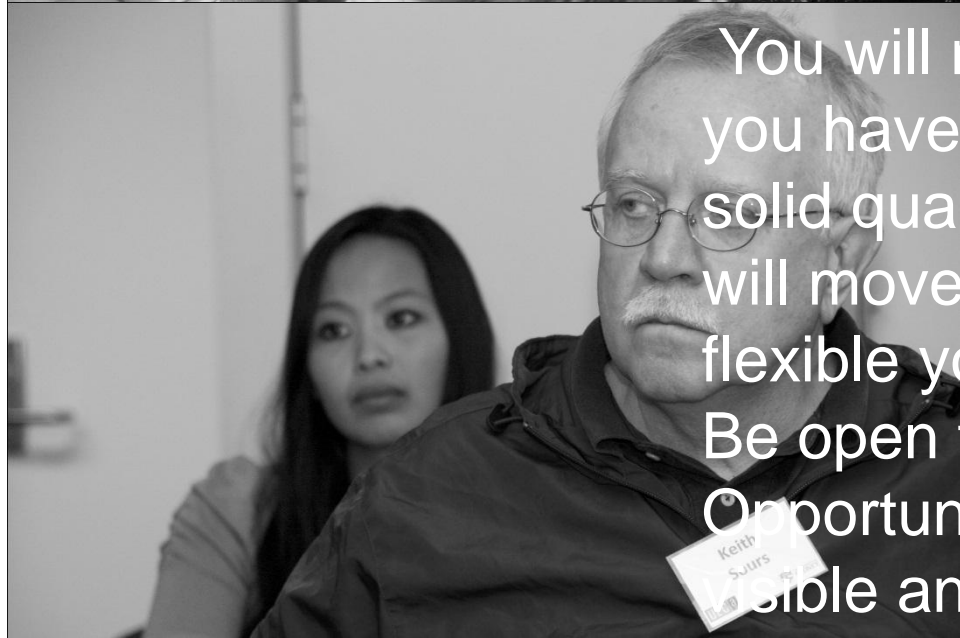




What can I do to address the issue of remuneration?



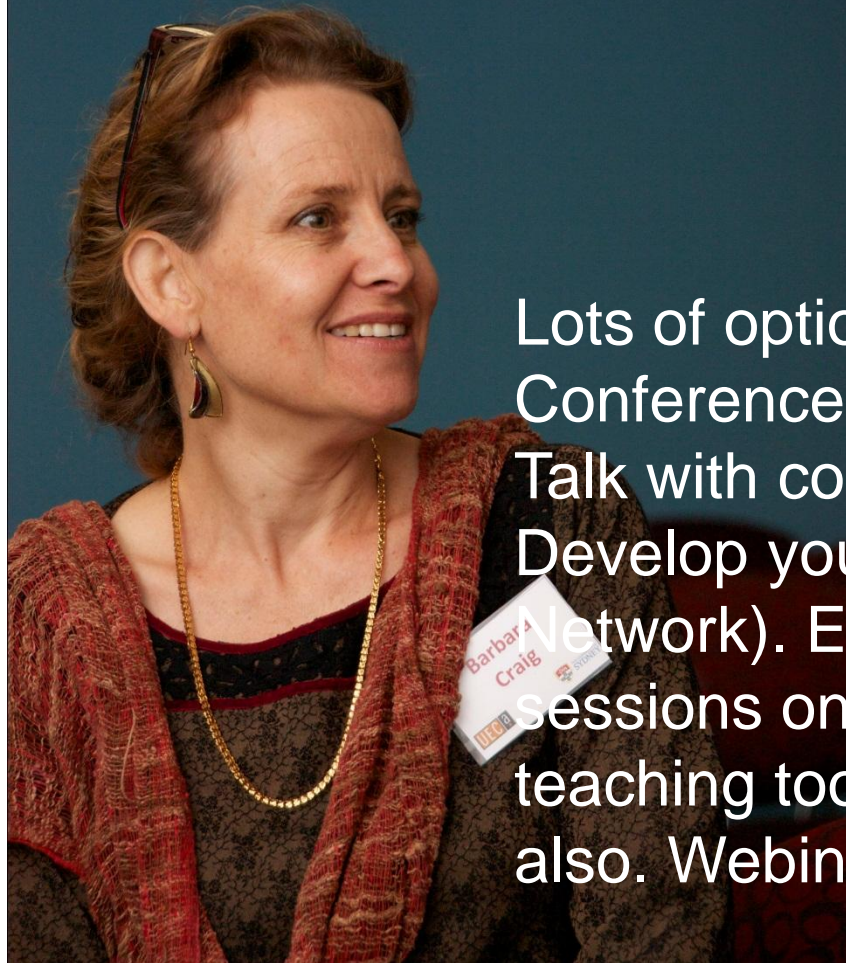
You will never make much money so you have to love doing it. However, with solid qualifications and experience you will move up quite quickly. By being flexible you will be far more employable. Be open to teaching **ANYTHING!** Opportunities will come up if you are visible and 'out there'. 'Can do' attitude

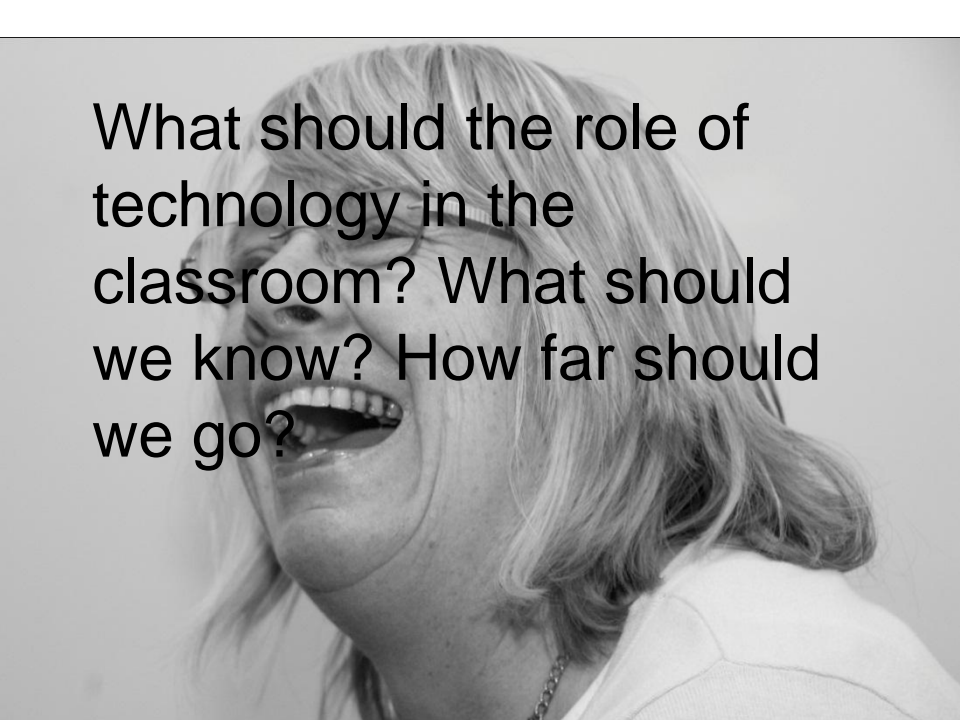





What other options are there if you are not able to take on a large course such as a Masters?

Lots of options such as shorter courses. Conference presentations. PD workshops. Talk with colleagues - keep your mind alive! Develop your PLN (Personal Learning Network). Example - IATEFL conference sessions online. Twitter can be a good teaching tool (but be selective!). YouTube also. Webinars. ELT Chat.






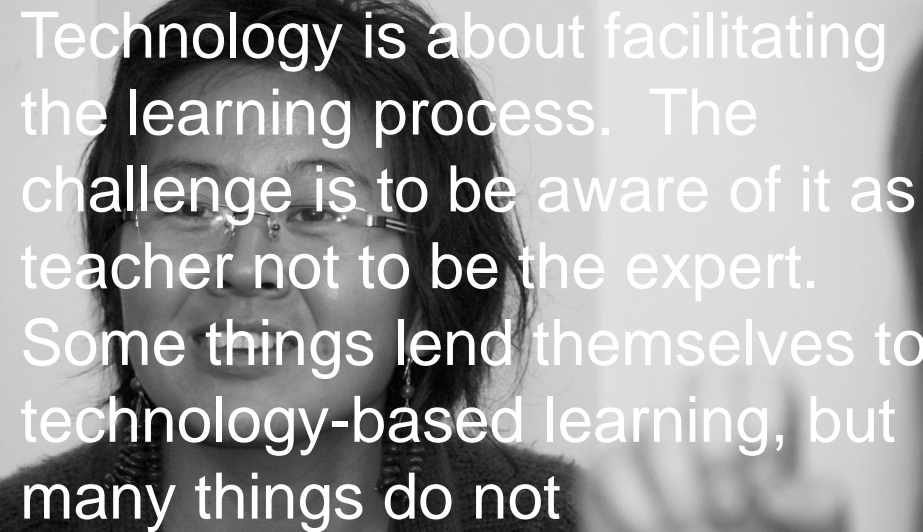
What should the role of technology in the classroom? What should we know? How far should we go?



What technology should we keep, what should we abandon?



How do we address the differences between how we communicate and how our students do?



Technology is about facilitating the learning process. The challenge is to be aware of it as teacher not to be the expert. Some things lend themselves to technology-based learning, but many things do not

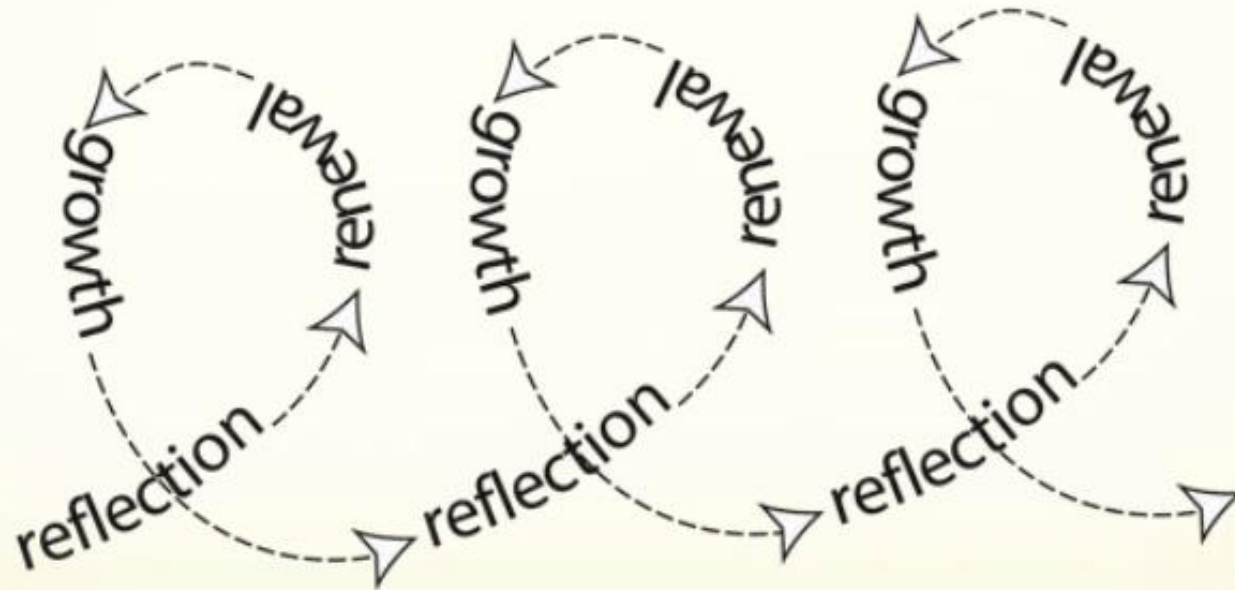
- How long do you take to prep?
 - Depends on activity
- What you think you still need to learn?
 - Grammar, grammar, more grammar
 - How to inject life, fun and enjoyment in the classroom.
- Have you had a mentor?
 - Yes, majority see it as important to have a mentor in teaching, doesn't need to be formal
- What prompted you into teaching?
 - Travel opportunities
- How do you motivate or demotivate students?
 - Focus on long term goals, write them down.
- What more do you think you need to learn?
 - Technology, moving away from tried and true.
- Major changes in the industry
 - Pressure on students and into taking EAP



**Who are our
future students?**



- **Autodidacticism** (also **autodidactism**) is self-directed learning. In a sense, autodidacticism is "learning on your own" or "by yourself", and an **autodidact** is a self-teacher. The term has its roots in the Ancient Greek words αὐτός (*autós*, or "self") and διδακτικός (*didaktikos*, meaning "teaching"). The related term Didacticism defines an artistic philosophy of education.



Reflection — Renewal — Growth cycle

Adapted from Steffy & Wolfe 2001



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