

LANGUAGECERT Academic Panel Members

Patricia Coles

Chair of ESL & Assessment, Centennial College, Canada



Patricia (Trish) currently works at Centennial College in Toronto as Chair of the English as a Second Language Department. She is also responsible for the Assessment Centre where internal college assessments for placement or admission and other tests, external to the college, are administered.

Trish has had an extensive career in language education spanning Europe, North Africa, North America and the Middle East, including over sixteen years working in the growing college system of the UAE, where she received a 'Excellence in Teaching' award prior to transitioning to a management role.

She has substantial experience in designing English language curriculum, promoting communicative language teaching strategies and supporting faculty development through applied research projects. Her research interests lie in the areas of fostering creativity in language learning, the role of AI in language learning and the learning sciences.

Trish studied at the University of Toronto for her B.A and B. Ed., the Sorbonne-Paris IV, and University of Surrey, UK for an M.A in Linguistics (TESOL).



Cath D'Amico

*Director, International at Trent University &
Vice-President of Languages Canada, Canada*

When not hunting down the best espresso around, or running with her two dogs, Cath dedicates her energy to creating opportunities for learning, life experiences, and professional development for international students at Trent University. With over a decade of English Language Program leadership, her approach to leadership and language education demonstrates a commitment to creativity, collaboration, and connecting people and ideas.

Holding a Master's degree in Leadership, along with degrees in Outdoor and Experiential Education and in the Social Sciences, Cath sees International Education as the journey to facilitate understanding and mutual respect between people and cultures and as the platform for innovation and advanced thinking and learning.

Having served on the Languages Canada board of directors since 2015 and serving as Vice-President, Cath prioritizes working towards Canada's global reputation as a language learning and postsecondary education destination.



Dr. Pamela Humphreys

Director at Macquarie University College, Australia



Dr Pamela Humphreys has worked in international education for over 30 years in Europe, Asia and Australia. Currently she is the Director at Macquarie University College, including the English Medium Instruction (EMI) Centre. For many years, Pamela was a trainer for CELTA and the Cambridge Certificate in Teaching Grammar in Singapore Schools. For over 20 years, she was heavily involved in language assessment as an item writer, examiner trainer, and Assistant Principal Examiner.

From 2008-2016, she was responsible for many strands of the multi-award-winning Griffith English Language Enhancement Strategy. For this work, she won a national OLT Program Award in 2014. In 2016, her PhD thesis, on the construct of English language proficiency in higher education, won the IEAA Outstanding Contribution to International Education Award. In 2021, Pamela was awarded the English Australia John Gallagher Bursary for outstanding contribution to the English language sector. She has overseen the development of three MOOCs for IELTS and PTE in the last two years, which won the 2022 India Australia Business and Community Alliance science, research and development award.



Professor Eoin Jordan

*Director, International Education Institute,
University of St Andrews, UK*

Eoin has held a variety of teaching, administrative and leadership roles related to language teaching and assessment since beginning his career in this area in 2001. He has worked in Japan, Hungary, China and the UK, including as Acting Director and Deputy Director of the Language Centre at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, and currently as Director of the International Education Institute at University of St Andrews.

Eoin holds an EdD in Higher Education from University of Liverpool, an MA in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching from University of Nottingham, a Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA), and is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA). He is the lead developer of a range of online tools designed to aid users of English as an additional language with academic writing in English, and has published and presented in the following areas of research and professional interest: vocabulary acquisition and testing; peer assessment; automated writing evaluation; educational technologies; English as a Lingua Franca and World Englishes.



Federico Ling

Assistant Vice Chancellor, International Enrollment Management at Northeastern University, USA



Federico Ling leads Northeastern University's international efforts to offer professional development programs and training opportunities for students and learners around the world. As assistant vice chancellor for Global Enrollment Management, he is responsible for formulating promotion and recruitment strategies and leading the team to build strong partnerships worldwide.

Federico is a political and international expert with several years of experience developing strategic alliances with foreign partners, including universities, governments, foundations, corporate entities, and non-governmental institutions. He previously served as the director of political analysis for the president of Mexico, an advisor to the secretary of state in Mexico, and chief of staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee within the Mexican House of Representatives. Federico holds a MA in Political Analysis and Information Media from Tecnológico de Monterrey and a BA in Political Science and Public Administration from Universidad Iberoamericana. He is also an alumnus of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitors Leadership Program and continues to serve as a national op-ed columnist for various newspapers in Mexico. Federico is originally from Mexico and has previously lived in Italy. He currently resides in Washington, D.C.



Brooke O'Donnell

Executive Director of International Admissions & Student Services at Pepperdine University, USA

Brooke provides leadership to advance international student enrollment, retention, and success. In her ten years at Pepperdine, Brooke has overseen international recruitment, admissions, SEVIS compliance, and comprehensive student services, aligning these efforts with the university's mission as a premier global Christian institution. She also directs initiatives to standardize data stewardship, manages a unique International and TCK Ambassador Program and chairs a cross-departmental collaboration to enhance the international student experience.

Brooke holds a Master of Arts in Leadership in K-12 and Post-Secondary Education from Michigan State University, where she also earned her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. Before her tenure at Pepperdine, she served in leadership roles at the University of South Florida, including Director of International Admissions and Assistant Director of Progression, and as an International Admissions Counselor at Michigan State University. Throughout her career, she has actively volunteered her time and expertise within the Council of International Schools and International Association of College Admission Counseling communities. Brooke has been dedicated to fostering global partnerships, promoting cultural exchange, and supporting international students throughout their educational journeys.



Associate Professor Gaurav Shekhar

*Program Director for the MS - Business Analytics Programs
(Flex and Online) at University of Texas at Dallas, USA*



Gaurav is the Program Director of the Graduate Business Analytics Program (FLEX and Online). He is also an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Information Systems area and teaches courses like Business Intelligence and Digital Consulting to both Graduate and Undergraduates. His main areas of research are IT Project Management, AI/Machine Learning, Natural Language, and Organizational Leadership. He enjoys working with students and works with them across academic and non-academic areas. He has been instrumental in setting up student and corporate engagement programs at UT Dallas. He is one big believer in the concept of Servant Leadership which is the base of most of his initiatives.

Gaurav is open to new ideas and feels that empowering the students is a great way to serve the school and the university. He heads the Toastmasters District in North Eastern Texas, which has a strong presence in the School of Management as well.



Associate Professor Simon Winetroube

Director at Curtin English, Curtin University

Associate Professor Simon Winetroube, Director at Curtin English, Curtin University is an experienced Director with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education field. Skilled in all academic, pedagogical and managerial aspects of International Education, English language teaching and Cultural Relations, Simon is a strong education professional with considerable experience of managing change and innovation in education at an institutional and national level.

His professional interests include language policy, language assessment, inter-cultural communications and CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning).



Professor Wen Zhao

*Dean of the School of Foreign Studies at Jinan University,
China*



Diana is Dean of the School of Foreign Studies at Jinan University, Guangzhou. Her main publication and research interests are in corpus linguistics, English curriculum and instruction, and translation studies. She is vice director of the College English Teaching Advisory Committee of the China Ministry of Education (MOE) and is a key member of the Vocational English Teaching Advisory Committee of the MOE.

She has been working and researching in English language teaching and learning for the past three decades and has been involved in major national English curriculum development projects for senior secondary and higher vocational education and College English education.

She has been chief editor of a series of textbooks in English for senior secondary and higher vocational education as well as for College English education. She is currently heading up a national project on developing a virtual continuing professional teaching and research hub for College English education, with over 10 universities from across different parts of China.

