



ELTed 12th Annual conference

at Teachers' Club | Club na Múinteoirí
36 Parnell Square W, Rotunda, Dublin 1, [D01 T6V6](https://www.dublinpost.ie/property/36-parnell-square-w-dublin-1-D01-T6V6)

Speaker	Talk
Welcome & Introductory Remarks from Iryna Avalishvili & Peter Lahiff 09:45-10:00	
1. Jen Diaz Green 10:00-10:15	“Workplace Wellness: Wellness for Everyone in the ELT sector”
2. Mark Hennessy 10:15-10:30	“A Road to Nowhere? Rethinking English Language Teaching in Ireland!”
3. Aneta (Ayla) I. Duman 10:30-10:45	“Academic Writing in the Age of AI: How Students and Teachers See AI in EAP in Ireland”
4. Aida Juanals Anacleto 10:45-11:00	“Beyond the Blackboard: Innovations in ELT”
5. Alvaro Ruiz Vazquez 11:00-11:15	“Bridging 21st Century Skills and Exam Preparation”
Coffee break 11:15-11:45	
6. Eirini Polychronaki 11:45-12:00	“Student Voices Matter: Empowering Learners through Active Approaches”
7. Sozina Tzepapadaki 12:00-12:15	“From Silence to Speaking: Boosting Engagement with ChatGPT-Designed Tasks”
8. Ram Subramanian 12:15-12:30	“Teaching Writing in the Age of LLMs”
9. Martin Rost 12:30-12:45	“Learner Autonomy Today - When, Why and How!”

Annual General Meeting 12:45-13:15	
Lunch break 13:15-14:15	
10. Beatrice Bartus 14:15-14:30	“Using Formative Assessment to Enhance Teaching and Learning”
11. Fiachra McCleary 14:30-14:45	“Make your Educational Videos Engaging and Interactive to Enhance Learning!”
12. Milou Paulissen 15:45-15:00	“The benefits of Lean thinking in ELT”
13. Nigel Bwye & Michael Cummings 15:00-15:15	“How ready are you – and your students - for the future?”
Coffee break 15:15-15:45	
14. Margaret Jansen 15:45-16:00	“Psycho-Education in the Age of AI”
15. Shaun Sweeney 16:00-16:15	Beyond Compliance: Building quality in Irish ELT with Trinity Qualifications” Sponsored Speaker - Trinity College London
16. Daniel Berejnoi 16:15-16:30	“From Aims to Planning: Structuring Lessons for Impact”
Closing remarks from: Adriana Amadio & Alvaro Ruiz Vazquez & Group picture 16:30-16:45	

**ELT Ireland Education & Development Talks -
Teachers' Club in Dublin 26th April 2025**

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Introducing **ELT Ireland**

ELT Ireland is a network for English language teaching professionals. It originated in discussions at the 2013 Digital ELT conference in Dublin about the need for such a group. Anyone who has worked abroad, especially in the UK, is struck by the lack of a body that facilitates sharing experiences and ideas among teachers, managers, and other English language teaching professionals. The UK-based IATEFL (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) and the US-based TESOL (Teachers of English as a Second or Other Language) International Association have provided a model for how such organisations can encourage the sort of continuing professional development that is needed to keep standards up and to retain the most able teachers in the profession. The sustainability of the significant and growing contribution that English language teaching makes to the Irish economy is dependent on the professionalism of our schools and our teachers. ELT Ireland aims to be a vital part of that by being a network of teachers, managers and administrators dedicated to spreading best practices in the industry.

Welcome to the 11th annual **ELT Ireland** event



Teachers' Club | Club na Múinteoirí



Club Na Múinteoirí
Teachers' Club

ELTed is a series of short education and development talks given by ELT professionals for ELT professionals. Language teachers, researchers and managers work on a daily basis to help students with the challenges of learning a new language. They are constantly developing activities, techniques and approaches to help them overcome the difficulties they encounter. The practical solutions they come up with often go unrecorded. **ELT**ed is a showcase for these practical solutions. We plan to make this a regular forum where ELT professionals can share aspects of their educational practice with the English language teaching community throughout Ireland. If you would like to see an **ELT**ed in your area, contact us; we will be happy to help you make it happen.

ELTed event • Dublin 21 February 2026
English language teaching education & development talks
from **ELT** Ireland

On the Theme: Back to basics and looking ahead
- **Teaching English in the 21st Century**

Speakers and talks

1.

“Workplace Wellness: “Wellness for Everyone in the ELT sector”

by Jen Diaz Green

Description: There's plenty of evidence that shows that supporting our employees/colleagues' wellness in our ELT workplaces can help boost physical and mental health, job satisfaction, relationships, connection as well as productivity and better outcomes for the company. It's a win-win! The positive impact on the personal, professional, corporate and community levels can be exponential. Let's explore ways in which we can all help inside and outside the classrooms.



Bio: Jen Diaz Green has been involved in ELT education for over 25 years in both Argentina and Ireland. She's been an EFL teacher, an Academic Manager, a teacher trainer and currently School Director at ISI Dublin. She's in charge of quality standards, operational effectiveness and leadership. She's also a Workplace Wellness advocate.

2.

“A Road to Nowhere? Rethinking English Language Teaching in Ireland”

by Mark Hennessy

Description: In 2023-24, 40,400 international students enrolled at Irish HEIs. To succeed, these students require very specific abilities in academic English. They also need to master critical student skills in how to use their academic English to demonstrate learning, knowledge and, eventually, success in HEI exams.

To prepare students for their future learning, this talk will discuss two main themes:

- What types of English language teaching, learning and content will be important in helping international students achieve their goals in accessing Irish HEIs in the 21st century?
- What role can English language providers in the private sector play?



Bio: Mark Hennessy has worked in the private ELT, Adult and Further Education and Higher Education sectors and is currently Assistant Lecturer in Applied Linguistics at Maynooth University. His research interests include EAP pedagogy and improving learning outcomes for international students studying at Irish HEIs.

3.

“Academic Writing in the Age of AI: How Students and Teachers See AI in EAP in Ireland”

**by Aneta (Ayla)
I. Duman**

Description: AI tools like ChatGPT, Grammarly, and Quillbot are transforming how students engage with English for Academic Purposes (EAP) across Irish higher education and language schools in Ireland. Many learners use them for grammar, vocabulary, and writing support, but opinions about their value and risks differ widely. This presentation focuses on current practices and perceptions of AI in EAP classrooms in Ireland. Based on surveys, interviews, and focus groups, it explores how teachers, students, and institutions see these tools, from worries about plagiarism to opportunities for learning support. The aim is to share a clearer picture of how AI is already shaping academic English learning in Ireland.



Bio: I have been working as the Director of Quality and Curriculum Coordinator at ICOT since 2024. I bring 17 years of international experience teaching academic English across the USA, Turkey, and Ireland. My current research focuses on the intersection of AI and academic writing.

4.

“Beyond the Blackboard: Innovations in ELT”

**by Aida Juanals
Anacleto**

Description: This talk explores how innovation in English language teaching can transform the classroom into an engaging, student-centered space. Drawing on role plays, authentic materials, gamification, and creative activities, it highlights practical ways to boost participation and motivation while developing essential skills. Role plays give learners authentic communicative practice, while gamified elements encourage collaboration, competition, and fun. By combining these approaches, teachers can foster deeper engagement, improve language retention, and create memorable learning experiences. In just 12 minutes, this session will share adaptable ideas and strategies to inspire educators to reimagine classroom dynamics and energise their teaching practice.



Bio: Aida is an experienced English teacher with a CELTA and a BA in English and Spanish. Passionate about creative, student-centered learning, she explores innovative methodologies and engaging approaches to inspire learners.

With a background in international classrooms, she thrives on collaboration and sharing ideas to enrich ELT practice.

5.

“Bridging 21st Century Skills and Exam Preparation”

**by Alvaro Ruiz
Vazquez**

Description: In this presentation, Alvaro will showcase how traditional exam training and in-class development of 21st Century Skills, two seemingly polar opposites, can be smoothly bridged. He will present a short, one-week project he recently implemented to illustrate this connection and the tools he used to assess the process. The main takeaway will involve flipping the traditional approach to exam preparation, inviting teachers to integrate 21st Century Skills into their practices, even (perhaps especially) where it seems least intuitive.



Bio: Alvaro is an English Teacher for adult courses, holding a Higher Diploma in Primary Education with a specialization in English Language Teaching. He has also pursued further training in adult education and project-based learning, and has been delivering lessons at Future Learning for nearly three years. Alvaro has a strong focus on Critical Pedagogy, 21st Century Skills, and the empowerment of students through learning and community building.

6.

“Student Voices Matter: Empowering Learners through Active Approaches”

**by Eirini
Polychronaki**

Description: This presentation showcases the potential of active learning approaches in promoting learner engagement and autonomy. By exploring practical applications of student-centered theoretical frameworks, a variety of practices and activities designed to foster authentic communication and meaningful learning will be examined. Through illustrative examples and visual documentation from real classroom activities, applications of learner-focused methodologies will be demonstrated. This session will also provide guidance on planning, adapting and implementing these activities to diverse learning contexts. Attendees will join in an exploration of inclusive student-centered activities that integrate critical cosmopolitanism and other pivotal 21st century skills in language learning.



Bio: Eirini Polychronaki is an English Language Teacher at ISE Dublin and an Applied Linguistics PhD Candidate at Trinity College Dublin. Eirini is also a remote academic manager at the GEN Education Centres in Crete, Greece and an assistant coordinator at English conversation classes for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ireland.

7.

“From Silence to Speaking: Boosting Engagement with ChatGPT-Designed Tasks”

**by Sozina
Tzepapadaki**

Description: This presentation explores how ChatGPT can be integrated into the design of CEFR-aligned, task-based speaking materials to enhance learner engagement in adult EFL classrooms. Based in task-based language teaching principles and 21st-century pedagogical goals, the presentation demonstrates how AI can support teachers in creating authentic, communicative scenarios that promote interaction, motivation, and learner autonomy. Practical examples of AI-assisted task design and classroom implementation will be shared, alongside findings on these materials in students' cognitive, emotional, and social engagement.



Bio: Sozina is Assistant Director of Studies at the International School of English, Dublin, and holds an MA in TESOL from University College Dublin. With teaching experience across diverse settings, her research explores the pedagogical use of AI, task-based learning, CEFR-aligned speaking materials, and strategies to enhance student engagement.

8.

“Teaching Writing in the Age of LLMs

**by Ram
Subramanian**

Description: Now that we have AI that can produce written work with a simple prompt, it can be hard to motivate students to practice writing -- or even to motivate teachers to teach it! This talk explores why writing skills matter, how we can convince students that they matter, and how we can focus on it in the classroom.



Bio: Ram has been teaching since 2007, when he quit his band to move to Japan. He has since worked in five countries and taught such disparate subjects as English, music, science, philosophy, and Sanskrit. He has lived in Dublin for 13 years and works as a senior teacher at Atlas.

9.

“Learner Autonomy Today - When, Why and How!”

by Martin Rost

Description: This presentation aims to briefly review 'timeless' concepts related to learner autonomy, and to explore how educators, in different roles, can bring these concepts into the classroom so that learners can make the most of them outside school time. We will emphasize the importance of integrating autonomy training into our planning, and how different class dynamics and student preferences can be leveraged to support this. Finally, we will explore some of the latest technological advances and discuss what needs to be done in the classroom before encouraging students to use them.



Bio: Martin Rost is an English language teacher and an English–Spanish translator originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has taught a wide range of courses and levels to students of different ages and backgrounds. His passion for languages and innovation has led him to create and deliver webinars for schools all over the world.

10.

“Using Formative Assessment to Enhance Teaching and Learning”

by Beatrice Bartus

Description: This session explores how formative assessment can be used to enhance teaching and learning through ongoing feedback and active learner involvement. Participants will distinguish between summative and formative assessment, identify key elements of effective formative practice, and learn how to devise clear success criteria and rubrics. The session also introduces the use of AI tools to streamline the creation of rubrics and success criteria, ensuring consistency and efficiency. Practical tips on effective questioning, feedback, and promoting learner autonomy will be shared, helping teachers make assessment a powerful and engaging part of everyday classroom practice.



Bio: Beatrice holds a BA degree in TEFL and a Trinity DipTESOL. She has over 14 years of experience across all educational levels from various countries. She is currently the SDoS at IBAT Dublin. Beatrice has participated in EFL conferences and has been involved in areas ranging from teaching, teacher training, examining, material development, syllabus design, managing foundation courses, and CPD programme coordination.

11

“Make your Educational Videos Engaging and Interactive to Enhance Learning!”

by Fiachra McCleary

Description: Do students truly learn from the educational videos we create through simply watching alone, or must we design for deeper learner involvement? This talk explores how incorporating interactive features like embedded tasks and reflection prompts can change passive viewing into active engagement. We'll examine practical strategies for boosting engagement such as incorporating B-roll footage, leveraging AI tools, and applying Mayer's multimedia principles to enhance your educational videos and create genuine learning experiences.



Bio: Fiachra McCleary has over 15 years of experience in the ELT field as a teacher, examiner, CELTA tutor and Academic Manager, working across Thailand, China, Myanmar, the UK and Ireland. He is currently completing a Masters in eLearning with DCU and is passionate about harnessing technology to enrich learning.

12.

“The benefits of Lean thinking in ELT”

**by Milou
Paulissen**

Description: This talk looks at how ideas from Lean thinking can help make LT more effective and efficient. Lean thinking is about focusing on what really adds value for learners and reducing anything that wastes time or effort. By applying these ideas, teachers can plan and deliver lessons more smoothly, make better use of resources, and create a more focused and enjoyable learning experience for students.



Bio: I started teaching English in 2014 and am currently working at DCU International Academy as the Academic Manager. Besides teaching, I'm also involved in creating course materials for the Dutch market.

13.

“How ready are you – and your students - for the future?”

Sponsored Speakers - National Geographic Learning

**by Nigel Bwyte &
Michael
Cummings**

Description: Students today face a more uncertain future than ever. The jobs they're going to apply for in the next few years may not yet exist. Those already working may have to reinvent themselves several times over. A capacity to adapt to whatever is coming will be key. Creativity, resilience, empathy, and an openness to change are among the Future Ready Skills that thought leaders from the World Bank, OECD, and the World Economic Forum say we'll all need. But how do we teach these?

Come and hear about how to make adaptability and future employability part of your students' experience!



Bio: Nigel Bwyte, is Sales Consultant At Cengage Learning; Michael Cummings is Senior Manager Business Development And Sales – UK, Eire, Malta, Scandinavia, Africa

14.

“Psycho-Education in the Age of AI”

**by Margaret
Jansen**

Description: As artificial intelligence transforms classrooms, it's easy to forget that language learning is still a profoundly human process. Drawing on over forty years of psycho-educational practice, this talk explores how teachers can use AI tools without losing empathy, connection, and learner wellbeing. It re-examines the psychological foundations of motivation, confidence, and cognitive readiness, showing how these “basics” can guide us in integrating new technologies responsibly. Teachers will leave with practical, human-centred strategies for supporting learners in an AI-enhanced world—reminding us that while machines can process language, only people can inspire learning.



Bio: With over forty years in education, Margaret has worked across Africa and internationally as a teacher, curriculum writer, and psycho-educational specialist. She has developed literacy programmes, national curricula, and teacher-training materials, supporting learners from rural classrooms to corporate boardrooms. Her work bridges educational psychology and practical, human-centred English teaching.

15.

“Beyond Compliance: Building quality in Irish ELT with Trinity Qualifications”

Sponsored Speaker - Trinity College London

by Shaun Sweeney



Description: This talk explores how Trinity qualifications can help Irish ELT providers meet TrustEd requirements while genuinely enhancing quality. It highlights the role of the Cert and DipTESOL in ensuring teacher and manager compliance under the ELE Code, and shows how DipTESOL coursework can support TrustEd goals such as CEFR alignment, curriculum design, and reflective CPD. The presentation also outlines why Trinity's ISE exams offer a compliant, progression-focused alternative to other widely used assessments for adult courses. We'll see how Trinity can be both a practical compliance solution and a driver of authentic professional and institutional growth in Irish ELT.

Bio: Co-founder of online training centre Dublin TEFL, Shaun Sweeney is a teacher, trainer, and examiner with over 25 years' ELT experience. He divides his time between teacher education, curriculum design, assessment, and professional quality assurance initiatives within English language education.

16.

“From Aims to Planning: Structuring Lessons for Impact”

by Daniel Berejnoi



Description: This session explores how to design effective lessons by starting with the end in mind. Rather than planning activities first, we'll focus on identifying clear learning outcomes and then working backwards to build a purposeful sequence of tasks that lead students toward those goals. Using practical examples and reflective strategies, we'll examine how backward planning enhances clarity, coherence, and learner engagement. Whether you're teaching language, science, or any subject, this approach helps ensure that every part of your lesson contributes meaningfully to student progress. Ideal for educators seeking to make their teaching more intentional, focused, and impactful.

Bio: Daniel Berejnoi is the Director of Studies at English Path, Dublin, and has a strong focus on curriculum development, teacher training, and academic leadership. Passionate about sharing effective teaching practices, Daniel designs and delivers CPD sessions that empower educators to reflect, innovate, and grow. His recent work includes integrating AI into administrative, teaching, and learning practices, always with a commitment to clarity, engagement, and learner success. Daniel brings a thoughtful, strategic approach to education, grounded in classroom experience and a deep understanding of learning processes.

Thanks to the ELT Ireland Event Team who make all this possible

Adriana Amadio on Individual Members and Visa Letters

Iryna Avalishvili on CPD Events & Chairing ELT Meetings

Behzad Baghery on Exhibitor and Institutions Liaison

Daniel Berejnoi on Website updates

Alvaro Ruiz on Social Media & Event Promotion

Cristina Diamant on Bulletin Editing

Ayla Duman on Bulletin Editing

Peter Lahiff on Committee Chairing, Talk Recording & MC

Gabi Widurek on Programme & Scheduling



Special thanks to our ELT Ireland Associates



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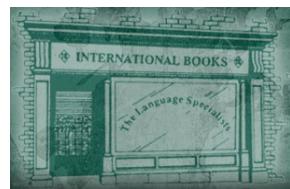
Thanks to our exhibitors, whose support is vital to the success of this event

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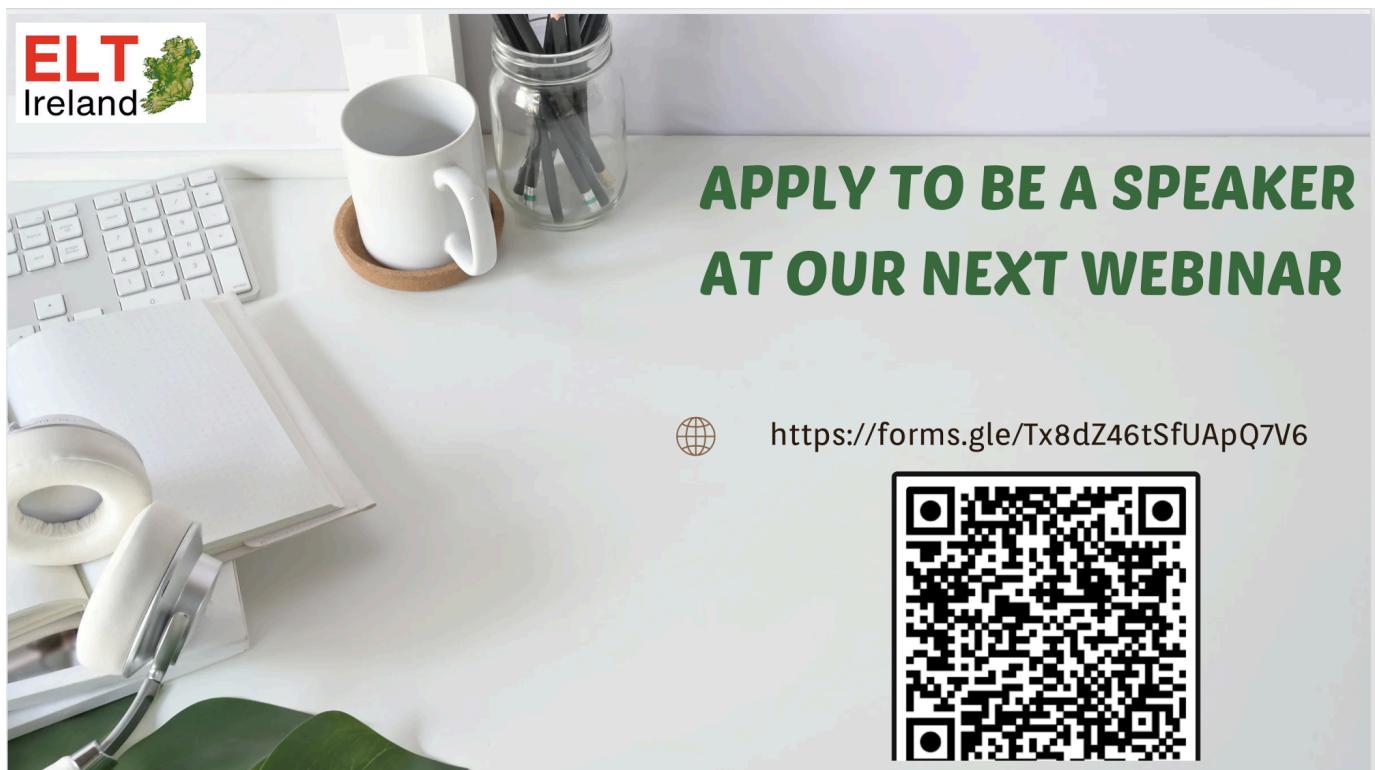
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ELT Ireland

**APPLY TO BE A SPEAKER
AT OUR NEXT WEBINAR**

<https://forms.gle/Tx8dZ46tSfUApQ7V6>



Call for Proposals – ELT Ireland Webinar

We're excited to announce a call for proposals for our next **ELT Ireland CPD webinar!**

We're looking for engaging, practical sessions that support English language teachers in their **continuing professional development**.

Here are a few general topic ideas to inspire you:

- Strategies that have helped you grow as a teacher
- A lesson idea or activities that works really well
- Tools or techniques that support student engagement
- Reflections on challenges you've faced and how you've overcome them
- Ideas for building learner autonomy or classroom confidence
- Methods and approaches in ELT

Interested in speaking?

Send your proposal using this link <https://forms.gle/WDNgFBUvvP69UMmk6>, or by scanning the QR code above, and we'll get back to you with more information.

Let's keep the CPD conversation going!