

Low Resource, High Quality

Designing a Zero-Materials ESOL Course

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UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

BRIATHAR DÉ MO LÓCHRANN

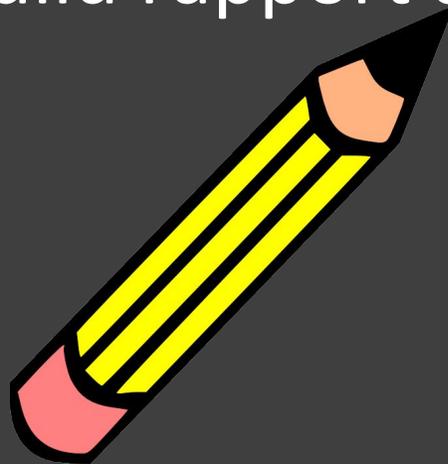


Lead In...

Imagine you have a new group of adult learners

How do **you** build rapport with them?

How do you ~~build rapport~~ **amongst** them?



Background

- Approx. 4000 asylum seekers in Ireland
- 34 direct provision centres
- ESOL Tuition limited to 30 hours **per year**
- Often provided by untrained volunteers
- No provision for 16-21 year olds
- No training for further education
- No training in Irish English or Job seeking skills

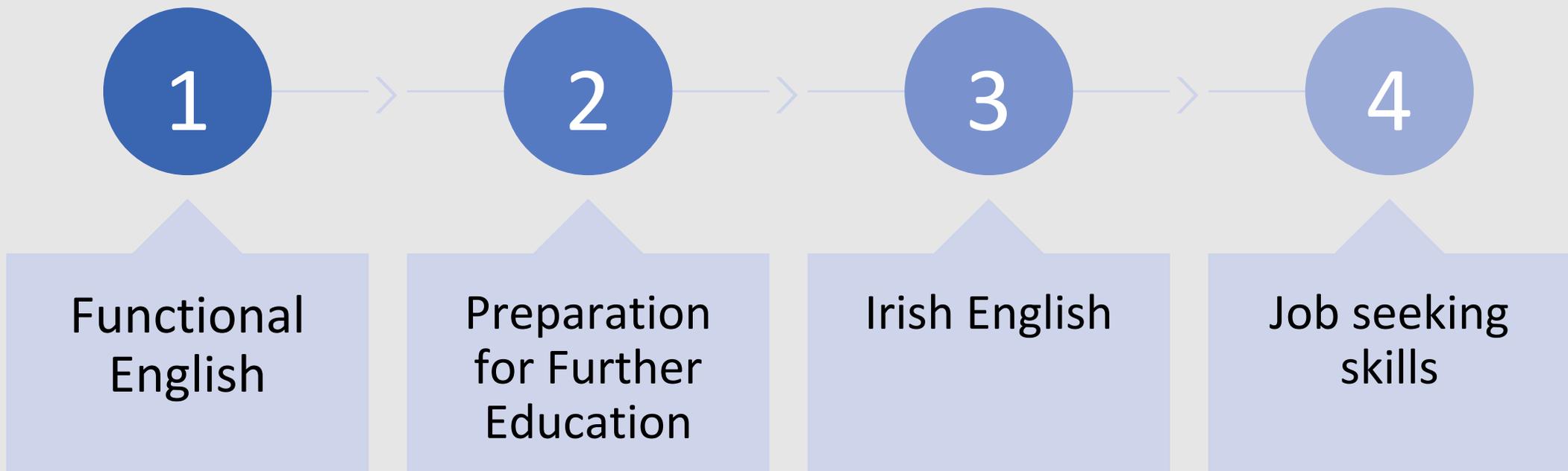
The Programme

UL - University of Sanctuary
Scholarships for refugees and
asylum seekers

Partnership between
Limerick-Clare ETB and M.A TESOL

8 hour course specifically for
asylum seekers in Direct Provision

The Courses



The Learners

Their Challenges

Varied cultural and religious backgrounds

Mixed level of English proficiency

Mixed literacy level, in English and L1

Learners' personal experience as asylum seekers

Reluctance to talk about the past

Reduction of social skills in DP

Refusal to engage with other students

Little/no opportunity to practice or do homework

The Teachers

Their Challenges

Limited teaching experience

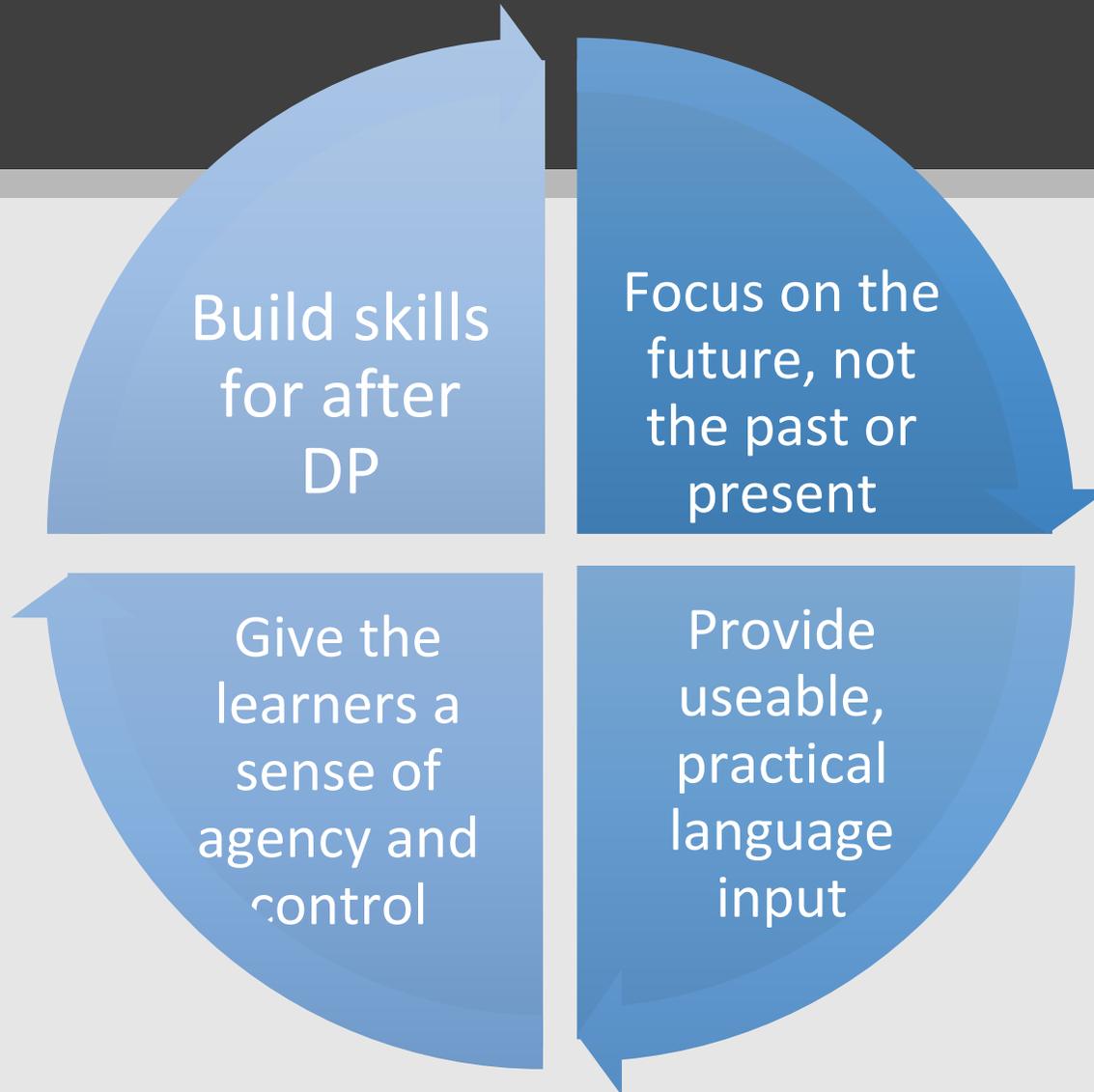
Trained on highly motivated, proficient students

No information about the learners in advance

Maintaining detachment while rapport building

Go-to activities often not possible

Objectives



Successful approaches

Focus on global comprehensibility
comprehension, and spoken fluency

Modelling and drilling – e.g greetings,
adjacency pairs

Learner generated role plays

Lexical sets for daily life

Grammar input as delayed error correction

Task 2

Look at your ice-breakers again.
Are they suitable for this context?
How could you modify them?

Final Task : Brainstorm

1 hour lesson

Functional English

Zero materials



Questions?