

SUMMER SCHOOL

Aligning language education to the CEFR: the Handbook in use

Leaders:

Elaine Boyd: Institute of Education, University College, London

Neus Figueras: University of Barcelona

Hosted by: Trinity College London

Dates and venue: 21-23 July 2025 –Milan/Brescia area, Italy

Rationale

The objective of this summer school is to work with the processes described in [Aligning Language Education with the CEFR: A Handbook](#). We aim to break down the stages into manageable steps and to discuss how to ensure quality within those steps. The school will provide an opportunity for each participant to focus on their own projects, or potential projects, while offering valuable insights and solutions through group collaboration and sharing. The purpose is to make the alignment process practicable and attainable for a variety of stakeholders, purposes and contexts.

Outline of programme

This is a 3-day programme covering the following topics:

- the key steps in an alignment process, including reporting and dissemination
- strategies for addressing any challenges that may emerge in any alignment process
- a consideration of JEDI (justice, equality, diversity, inclusion) issues
- the resources needed for a robust alignment process

Target audience

EALTA members and interested individuals who have been, are now or will be:

- involved in the development of an alignment process
- interested in implementing or improving an alignment
- completing an alignment project and in need of peer review

Background knowledge: No knowledge of the alignment process is assumed although it is assumed participants have an interest in engaging with aligning assessments or curricula to the CEFR at whatever level.

School leaders:

Neus Figueras lectures part-time at the University of Barcelona and has given courses and presented in universities in Spain and in different European countries, in Asia and the USA. She has been involved in a number of international projects and collaborated with the Council of Europe in the dissemination of the CEFR. She is one of the authors of the Manual for Relating examinations to the CEFR (Council of Europe, 2009) and of *Aligning language education with the CEFR: a Handbook* (2022). She edited, with David Little, *Reflecting on the CEFR for languages and its Companion Volume* (2021), published by Multilingual Matters. She was the first President (2004-7) of EALTA, and has coordinated the EALTA CEFR SIG for over 10 years.

Elaine Boyd has worked in assessment design and development for over 35 years for a range of international testing organisations and has designed several courses in assessment literacy along with publishing several articles in this field. She is a contributing author to *Reflecting on the CEFR for languages and its Companion Volume*, (2021) Figueras, N. & Little, D. (eds.), published by Multilingual Matters. She holds a PhD in pragmatics from the University of Cardiff and is an Associate Lecturer on the M.A. Linguistics/TESOL at the Institute of Education, UCL.