

Transforming Teacher Training Through Innovation

Challenge:

With the onset of COVID, it became essential that English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers have the skills to teach online. Many teachers faced the unpredictable challenge of having to teach online, even if they have never received focused and extensive training.

Solution:

Prior to COVID, in 2019, seeing the trend to online teaching, Bridge Education Group launched a comprehensive, four-course training program in Teaching English online. One component of the program is the Practicum in Teaching English Online, which incorporates practice teaching using the Off2Class platform into the training. When trainees in the series reach this capstone 60-hour Practicum, they are given the opportunity to showcase their learning in previous courses by executing five, 25-minute-long lessons using the Off2Class digital teaching platform.

Learning Impact:

Bridge Education Group believes in empowering a global community of ESL teachers, hence the decision to incorporate hands-on training on a well-established online teaching platform into the certification program. When using Off2Class, teachers have access to state-of-the-art technology and tools that allow them to develop and hone their teaching skills while helping students reach their English language goals. Trainees gain virtual classroom experience and work with extensive lesson content based around the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

Upon completion of the program, graduates can enter the online teaching workforce with the expertise and tools to gain meaningful employment. As a result, they can spend more time finding work that suits their needs rather than appropriating skills to fit the needs of potential employers. Additionally, they are able to operate in diverse environments with students from varying backgrounds and ability levels, while incorporating technology and learned teaching strategies.

ROI:

The well-rounded experience that trainees receive through the Bridge and Off2Class partnership prepares them to master not only their online teaching skills but their technology and administrative skills as well. This lowers institutional training costs associated with helping teachers become 'online ready,' thereby making brick-and-mortar programs more resilient if they need to pivot online. Consequently, teachers will be equipped with the necessary skills to teach online so that student learning outcomes are optimized.

