

University celebrates new Academy's success

Eaton Bray Lower School, near Dunstable, recently celebrated its transition to Academy status and the University of Bedfordshire was there to join in the celebrations with pupils, teachers and school governors.

The school currently hosts six English Language Studies (BA) student teachers on placement from the University, providing invaluable teacher training experience.

Ed Hounslow, Head of Division, Language and Communication at the University also attended the celebrations and explained why the school is so important to the University.

"Many of our undergraduates go into primary teaching. One career route has been traditionally to take options in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) for classroom experience. As an alternative to TEFL, the University recently launched this local venture with Eaton Bray Academy and it is proving really successful.

"Teaching experience provided by Eaton Bray Academy offers student teachers an alternative route to TEFL. Gaining local teaching experience also provides

our students with an edge in an ever increasingly competitive jobs

“ I'm delighted with the progress made through this placement scheme. ”

market. As part of the placement, student teachers are encouraged to use their talents and specialist skills. For instance, from the current placements group, one is a qualified basketball coach, a second is an expert in origami, whilst another is a specialist in linguistics. The University is keen to promote students' additional skills and abilities as these may help them achieve their professional teaching goals.

"Student teacher demand for placements at Eaton Bray has been very high, so a phased process has been introduced to give as many undergraduates as possible the chance of classroom learning experience."

Sue Hounslow, Headteacher, Eaton Bray Academy added, *"I'm delighted with the progress made through this placement scheme. Our school works closely with the University, providing student teaching opportunities, to help them apply what they've learnt on the course and to find out if teaching is what they really what to do."*

Eaton Bray Academy is a co-educational day school catering for 120 children aged 4-9 years of all abilities. In addition to celebrating Academy status, Eaton Bray is also celebrating 150 years of primary education in the village in 2011.



Sue Hounslow, Headteacher, Eaton Bray Academy and Ed Hounslow, Head of Language and Communication at the University of Bedfordshire.



Julita Lopinska, student teacher with some of the pupils from Eaton Bray Academy.



Julie Tawney, final year placement student at Eaton Bray Academy.

What students say...

Why did you choose University of Bedfordshire?

The University of Bedfordshire was recommended to me by my family, friends and lecturers at my Sixth Form. The Open Day made me realise that this is the University that I want to study in as the environment is so student-friendly.

What made you choose your course?

After I met the lecturers at the Open Day and saw the Language Centre, which is equipped with the latest facilities that aid learning, my decision was firm.

What are the best aspects of the course?

The best aspect of the course is that there are staff who are fully trained and always there to help with your assessments. They motivate and encourage students to do their best. Their constructive feedback enables you progress and develop as a student and as an individual. You can never go wrong as long as they are there to help.

What is the biggest challenge?

The biggest challenge that I have come across in this course is keeping up with the workload. This has been a learning curve for me as I became more

organised and learnt to manage my time more effectively which has been proven by my grades – I was awarded a prize of £1,000 for outstanding academic achievement.

How well do you think your course is preparing you for a job after graduation?

The course has helped me develop certain skills that I believed I would never develop such as my level of confidence in standing in front of people and doing a presentation. The course has units that specifically target for certain areas and help you to develop as a person. Therefore, I now feel more confident in applying for positions after I graduate and positions that I once never thought I would apply to.

Your advice for prospective students...

Be more prepared from the beginning of the course. Seek help whenever you need it and make sure you are clear about your goals and work towards them. It will keep you motivated.

Three words to sum up the University of Bedfordshire...

Multicultural atmosphere, lively and modern.



Shipa Begum

BA (Hons) English Language Studies with TEFL

“...make sure you are clear about your goals and work towards them.”

CRELLA project gets over £900,000 support from the EU

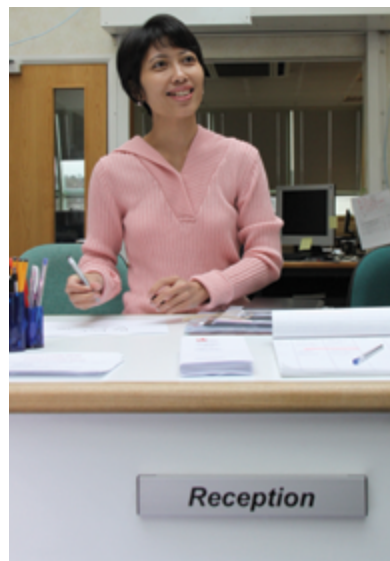


University Centre's for Research in English Language Learning and Assessment CRELLA TEMPUS project "Promoting Sustainable Excellence in Testing and Assessment of English (PROSET)" has been provisionally selected for EU financial support of 910,859 Euros.

This is a two year project in conjunction with Russian Ministry of Education and 11 Russian universities plus 3 EU partners to design and

roll out courses in testing and assessment to all teacher training colleges in Russia and to build centres of excellence in language assessment in the Russian regions. This will add substantially to the narrative on the global impact of CRELLA research for our REF submission.

This is also an excellent opportunity to extend the work of CRELLA in developing our understanding of the links between the teaching and assessment of academic reading into writing. This innovative contribution to knowledge is based on research we have done in cooperation with the EAP teaching staff in Luton and forms one of the two case studies in our REF submission. We are pleased that members of the EAP staff have already been involved in five CRELLA research projects in the area and will also be contributing to the PROSET project.



Student Satisfaction?

The BA English Language suite is ranked joint 2nd in the country for student satisfaction (tied with Cambridge).

The Complete University Guide, 2011

Overall Course Evaluation?

Bedfordshire BA English Language suite is rated 12th nationally.

The Complete University Guide, 2011

Support for students who have English as a second language

The Language Centre on level 3 of Vicarage Street offers a wealth of support for all non native speaker UoB students. All the support offered is free of charge. The services and facilities on offer include:

- English classes at various levels
- One to one tutorials with Language Centre Advisors
- Clubs and workshops
- Access to a wide range of books and materials
- On-line support and practice activities via a link in Breo
- A drop in centre with a computer suite where students can study with English Language advice and support on hand.

The best way to ensure that your students are aware of these services is to ask the language centre to give a short presentation (30 minutes) as part of the induction process.

Please email nicola.latimer@beds.ac.uk to schedule a presentation.

The Language centre also offers a year round program of English Language assessments. Many course leaders are requiring their students to attend a short 1 hour, computer based assessment at the start of their course in order to identify those students in need of support. To discuss this further or make arrangements to have your students assessed please contact nicola.latimer@beds.ac.uk.