

## 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.



## Students team up with local charity NOAH Enterprise



**A team of budding entrepreneurs from the University of Bedfordshire is joining forces to offer advice to local homeless charity NOAH (New Opportunities and Horizons) Enterprise.**

The five students from a variety of backgrounds are part of the University's branch of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and are working with advisors from the University's Careers and Employment Service and graduate M Sameer Ali Jinnah to address needs in the local community.

Irina Bucsa started up the team after hearing a SIFE representative talk at the University. Other members include Merle Neiderhuefner, **Ana Konova who is an MA Intercultural Communication student**, Heidi Petijova and Tautvydas Tamulevicius – all studying various courses at the University.

SIFE is an international network that brings together a diverse group of university students, academic professionals and industry leaders around the shared

mission of creating a better, more sustainable world through the positive power of business.

NOAH Enterprise was chosen as an ideal partner. It has a long history of collaboration with the University and the SIFE team felt they could start to address the very real need in their local community.

Irina said: *"It's a small team but we have big ideas. We're all totally committed to bringing about positive change, and NOAH Enterprise seemed a really useful place to start."*

The team undertook research to establish how NOAH Enterprise could best improve their business plan and fundraising efforts. They did a shadowing programme and initial market research and have just presented their findings to the NOAH team.

Tautvydas said: *"SIFE's aim is to empower people by offering proof of possible change. We won't be actively fundraising for NOAH but believe our business suggestions will provide a sustainable way of increasing funding."*

# What students say...

## meet Abby from MA Applied Linguistics



Abby Simpson  
MA Applied Linguistics

### What made you choose your course?

I knew I wanted to study for a Masters so I searched all the courses available on the University website. I corresponded with different course directors via email where I was given more information regarding the contents of each course and discussed its suitability to my interests.

### What are the best aspects of the course?

The MA in Applied Linguistics TEFL offers a theory-based course as well as a practical one. The tutors are very responsive via email. The course isn't over-populated. The University setting provides you with access to international students for research purposes.

### What is the biggest challenge?

The biggest challenge is not having studied for 10 years and having to adjust to an academic way of thinking and writing again.

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

I think the course will prepare me well for a job since it offers the practicality of real teaching which is assessed. The feedback and self-development should serve well to take out into the jobs market when the time comes. Previously I've been working as an actress in TV and theatre. I'm doing my Masters to secure my future since my Australian partner plays Rugby for Bedford Blues and we plan to travel overseas with his work in the coming years.

### Your advice for prospective students...

My advice for prospective students is to converse with course directors to be certain it is the right course for you and then... take a deep breath!

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

Friendly, contained and inspiring...

“ ...a theory-based course as well as a practical one. The tutors are very responsive... ”

## DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC SERVICE INTERPRETING

### – what's extra?



This course is offered to suitably qualified bilingual people, language specialists and to 3rd year undergraduates in the Dept of Language and Communication. Successful completion of the course, and the associated assignments, will attract academic credit, i.e. a university award of 30 credits at level 6 (stage 3). Languages we have accommodated include English with Polish, Bengali, Urdu, Russian, Serbian, Tamil, Greek, Spanish and Italian.

Students who seek the prestigious 'Chartered Institute of Linguists DPSI' qualification will be eligible to register for this external examination on satisfactory completion of the course tasks, and on advice from the course tutors. A separate examination entry fee is payable for this external examination which is held in June at the University.

**Those who attain a pass in the external examination are entitled to use 'DPSI' after their name, and are eligible to be enrolled on the National Register of Public Service Interpreters. See [www.iol.org.uk](http://www.iol.org.uk) for more information.**

## 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 English-speaking 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
- Online 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 Language centre also offers a year round program of English Language assessments.**



# What students say...

## meet Sharif from MA Intercultural Communication



Why did you choose the University of Bedfordshire?

In 2006 I joined the University of Bedfordshire doing my Diploma in Interpreting. So I was an interpreter, I wanted to further my studies, and MA Intercultural Communication seemed like an interesting option.

In what way did MA Intercultural Communication attract you?

It is because of my background experience. I come from Africa; I've lived in the Middle-East, now living in the UK with my family, interpreting and working with many different cultures.

What language interpreting do you do?

I am doing Swahili. This is from East Africa.

What are the best aspects of the course?

Really, the teachers. I am very happy with the lecturers, especially Miss Tricia Smart. Both academic and admin staff are very friendly, as well as the students. It is a family-like environment.

What do you feel is the biggest challenge?

I really want to help people understand cultures, minimise misconception and miscommunication between people.

How do you think you are doing so far?

The course is doing a lot of things to me; I mean I am getting a lot of experience, learning from the lecturers, books and other things. It is really helping me to achieve my goal.

Is the course practical?

The practical part of the course comes in when we are preparing materials in class, doing role models, preparing briefing papers, meeting different people from different cultures.

What would be your advice for prospective students?

I would say that people need to understand other people's culture and they need to come down here and learn about these things. Once you learn, it is easy to understand.

How would you describe the University of Bedfordshire?

I would say it is a good environment, friendly people and it is very flexible.