

Information Webinar: Action Research in ELICOS Program



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Session Overview

- Program structure, commitments, eligibility
- 2025 research theme
- What is Action Research?
- Expression of interest tips
- Testimonial from 2024 Program Participant



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About the Action Research in ELICOS Program

- Run in partnership by English Australia and Cambridge
- Academic Lead: Professor Anne Burns, Professor of TESOL at the School of Education, University of New South Wales and Professor in Language Education, School of Languages and Social Sciences, Aston University, Birmingham, UK



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Program Commitments

- Expressions of interest due 23 January 2025
- 3 workshops: 2 in-person, 1 virtual
- Online interaction in between workshops
- Present projects at English Australia Conference in Brisbane (Sept)
- Submit 3 reports – final report is worked on for publication in Cambridge Research Notes Journal



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Program Eligibility

- Employed on any ELICOS program
- Work for English Australia member college
- Approved by institution
- Employed for the majority of the period covered by the research program (casual employment is OK)
- Max two teachers per project
- Can participate in all workshops
- Projects cannot contribute to ongoing post-grad study



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“Great professional development and a springboard for further opportunities.”

“I have learnt a great deal about myself as a teacher, as a researcher and as part of the team I work with. I ‘notice’ much more in my professional life.”

“You don’t need to feel fearful about doing research. All the support you need is there [in the Program].”



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2025 Research Theme

'Promoting formative feedback and assessment: Using generative AI to enhance personalised feedback on language and develop essential life competencies'

- Formative Feedback: Developmental feedback provided during a student's learning program to help identify areas for improvement
- Life Competencies: 21st century skills, e.g. Cambridge Life Competencies Framework



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What is Action Research?

(Burns 2010)

Self reflective,
systematic
approach to
enquiry

Participants in the
context are also
researchers

Aim to identify
'problematic'
situations/issues

Bring about
critically informed
changes based on
evidence

Underpinned by
democratic
principles

Process of Action Research (Kemmis and McTaggart, 1988)



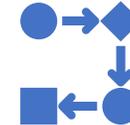
Plan: develop a plan of action to improve/understand /explore what's already happening



Act: act to implement the plan

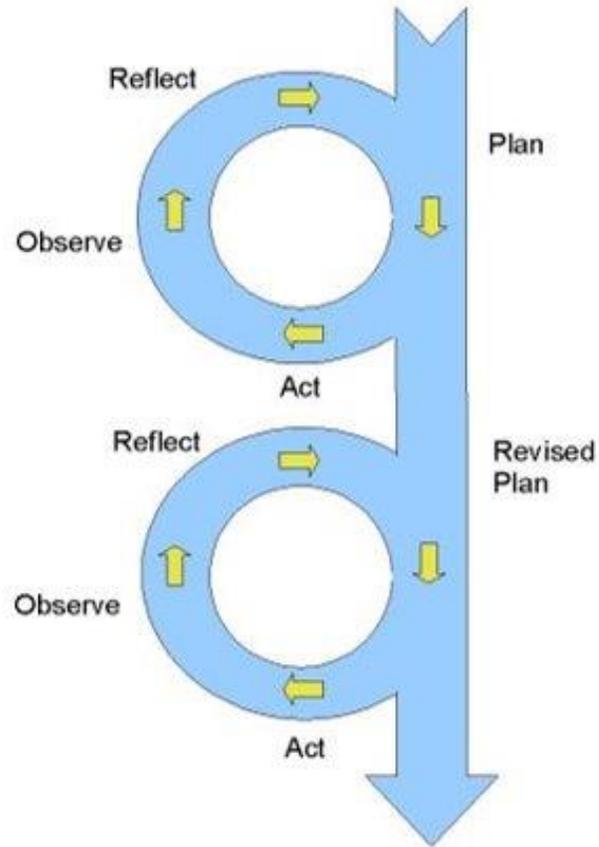


Observe: observe the effects of the action in the context in which it occurs (e.g. your classroom)



Reflect: reflect on the effects as the basis for further planning, or action, through a succession of changes.

Action Research Spiral (Kemmis and McTaggart, 1988)



What AR typically *doesn't* do:

- Set out to prove/disprove an experimental hypothesis
- Establish control/experimental groups
- Emphasise pre-test/post-test methods
- Use inferential statistical analyses
- Produce generalisable findings

In other words, AR is **exploratory research**, not research in the scientific, experimental tradition.



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Criteria used for the AR in ELICOS Program:

- Proposal is relevant to the theme for the year - **‘Promoting formative feedback and assessment: Using generative AI to enhance personalised feedback on language and develop essential life competencies’**
- Potential to be Innovative/new/interesting to ELICOS – trying out something that is fresh and new
- EOI clearly articulated and developed – well-written and steps to be taken are clearly stated at this stage and do-able within the timeframe
- Potential benefits for immediate stakeholders and the ELICOS sector – relevance to the researcher’s classroom/their centre and provides broader example for ELICOS



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Example expressions of interest

You can read examples of successful expressions of interest from previous years [here](#).



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Q&A



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