

Action Research in ELICOS Program

Frequently Asked Questions



CAMBRIDGE

Q Action research seems to be about trying out new ideas. Don't teachers do this all the time?

A: Yes they do, but their approach may not be very systematic. With action research there's a structured and systematic framework of **planning, observing, analysing** and **reflecting**. The Action Research in ELICOS Program also has a particular focus on collaboration and on sharing the research outcomes.

Q: Can anyone submit for the program?

A: Yes, as long as your manager can confirm that you'll be employed at a college registered on CRICOS to deliver ELICOS covering the period of the program and you'd be a suitable participant for the program.

Q: I'm very interested in exploring a particular aspect of the program topic but I don't have a clear research question. Should I still put in an expression of interest? A: Absolutely. You won't be expected to define your question(s) clearly until after the first program workshop, and even then you may change your question once you start your research - action research is very flexible.

Projects should be small, specific and practical – and your curiosity and openness to learning are essential!

Q: What kind of support will I receive during the program?

A: You'll get a great deal of support from English Australia at workshops at the beginning, middle and end of the program and also at a 1-1 Skype meeting with Anne Burns. Between the workshops you'll have access to a Whatsapp

group, where all the program admin will be available and you can keep in touch with the other participants, and you are welcome to contact the program tutors at any time if you have any problems.

We ask academic managers to be mindful of researchers' workload, especially around reporting time, and request that, wherever possible and practical, they're not required to do 'extra duties' beyond face-to-face teaching and preparation.

Q: What about ethics approval?

A: Not a problem. All projects in the Program are covered by ethics approval given by the University of New South Wales Human Research Committee.

Q: Will I have to write a lot of reports?

A: You will share the outcomes of your research in different ways. As well as presenting a brief oral report at the virtual Action Research Colloquium, you'll write a brief summary of your progress for the second workshop, prepare a [short summary](#) for the Conference and you'll write a [formal report](#) of your research for the publication by Cambridge. You may also be invited to speak at local and national events.

We do give you considerable support with the preparation of all of these, through detailed notes and models.

Q: Is it a lot of extra work?

A: Participants in the program tell us that it *is* extra work; however all of them say that it's professionally stimulating, very rewarding and well worth it.

For more information please visit www.englishaustralia.com.au/action-research-program, contact English Australia General Manager - Operations sophieokeefe@englishaustralia.com.au, or phone 0426 814 577.