Espace Langue Hypermédia / Hypermedia Language Centre

Our programmes

The Hypermedia Language Centre covers the Spoken, General and Business English courses for a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes in the faculty of Applied Languages, Commerce and Communication.

These programmes include:

- Applied Foreign Languages undergraduate degree (BA/Licence)
- Open Learning Project, undergraduate degree

For first and second year students of the Applied Foreign Languages degree who are bilingual from birth, who have spent a considerable amount of time in an English-speaking country (at least six months), or who have an above average level of English for other reasons (e.g. attended an international high school), there is a spoken English course called the Open Learning Project (OLP). It is based on tandem sessions with students of French at the Shortwood Teacher’s College of Kingston, Jamaica, as well as with English language assistants and international students based in the Auvergne. Students carry out group project work on top of the tandem sessions.

Students who follow this course can either follow both the regular LEA spoken English course or and the OLP course or can use their credits from the OLP course to validate their spoken English course. In the third year of study, OLP students are integrated into the regular LEA spoken English courses.

For more information, contact Emily BUTLER: Emily.BUTLER@uca.fr
Our staff

Emily BUTLER, Head of the Hypermedia Language Centre

Emily is a tenured senior lecturer (professeure agrégée) and read German, English literature and Native American Studies with a minor in teaching French as a foreign language. She started as a Teaching Assistant at the university of Oklahoma before going on to teach English and French as a foreign language in a European high-school and language schools in Germany. Emily then worked as a translator-interpreter for Airbus for 7 years, specializing in Simplified Technical English (STE) and aeronautics. She has since been working as a freelance translator-interpreter and is also court-approved (interprète-traductrice assermentée), specializing in legal translations and mainly public service interpreting.

Emily joined UCA in 2011 where she taught English at the Hypermedia Language Centre at BA and MA level as well as translation studies. She coordinated the undergraduate International Exchanges, Applied Foreign Languages and DU English programmes as well as the graduate MA English courses for the faculty of Languages, Business and Communication. She also taught the TEFL work experience and teacher training course for international students.

Emily currently oversees the optional TEFL work experience course for international students, recruits and trains the ‘lab assistants’ as well as the Language Center teaching assistants. She trains new members of the lab team and oversees the pedagogical content of the courses taught by the lab team. She also teaches translation studies and mentors students carrying out internships. Emily coordinates the BA spoken English course and Open Learning Project.

Her research interests focus on comparative literature and translation studies. She is a member of the research lab TRACT (Centre de Recherche en Traduction et Communication Transculturelle) at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris III.

Having grown up in Africa and the Middle East, she enthusiastically embraces other cultures and considers herself a citizen of the world.

Ciara Wigham

Ciara is a Senior Lecturer (maître de conférences) in English and Applied Linguistics. She completed her undergraduate studies in Combined Arts (Linguistics, French, Italian) at Durham University before earning her MA in Education at The Open University. She was awarded her PhD in Applied Linguistics from the Université Clermont II in 2012. She holds a TEFL certificate and the Cambridge Diploma in English language teaching for adults (DELTA).

Between 2004 and 2013, Ciara worked at the Hypermedia Language Centre as a ‘lectrice’ and then ATER. She then moved to teach at Université Lyon 2 where she taught both English language and teacher training courses and coordinated a Master’s programme in Didactics and Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL). After three years working in Lyon, she rejoined University Clermont Auvergne in 2016. Within the framework of the Hypermedia Language Centre, Ciara currently teaches the semester 1 undergraduate Open Learning Project course.
Ciara’s research focuses on the study of multimodal pedagogical interactions and the potential of CALL for language learning and teaching. She is a member of the Laboratoire de Recherche sur le Langage.

What is the Hypermedia Language Centre?

The aim of the Hypermedia Language Centre of the Faculty of Applied Languages, Business and Communication is to create an innovative language learning environment for our intermediate and advanced level students to increase their proficiency in spoken English. It is a multimedia language laboratory and its main objective has been to develop the concept of a communicative laboratory or learning space. This is supported by the use of digital technology for both oral comprehension and expression in order to enhance the overall learning experience of our students.

The Hypermedia Language Centre has won a European Award for Languages. This award is delivered nationally on behalf of the European Commission for innovative projects in the field of teaching and learning modern languages.

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