

## **British Council English for Universities Project FLNSD (Yuri Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University) Report**

This is the report on the results of the three phases of the “English for Universities” project implementation at the Foreign languages for natural sciences department (FLNSD) (Yuri Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University) presented. In May 2015, top British ELT consultant Rod Bolitho, together with the British Council English language project manager Zhanna Sevastianova, was welcomed at Chernivtsi National University and FLNS department. The consultants met the rectors, deans, university, department teachers and students to discuss the use of English as a medium of instruction, the importance of English for academic life and how to improve English language levels.

Within the framework of the "English for Universities" project, which was piloted at Taras Schevchenko Kyiv National University, National University “Lviv Polytechnic”, National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnical Institute” Poltava Technical University, Chernivtsi National University and Odessa National University, 13 members of the department took part in summer, autumn and winter 2015-2016 teacher training weeks supported by the British Council. This resulted in launching a new seminar on Methods of ESP Teaching at our department. These seminars are primarily aimed at improving professional skills of young teachers, advancing methods of English language teaching as well as giving professional support to young teachers in advanced writing.

Our department teachers participated in APTIS English assessment system, were part of the second stage of the “English for Universities” project at Chernivtsi National University and were involved in ordinary meetings with British ELT consultant Rod Bolitho and the British Council English language project manager Zhanna Sevastianova in 2015.

In July 2015, Olena Maniutina, Acting Head of the Department of Foreign Languages for Natural Sciences, Associate Prof. and Nadiya Yesypenko, Head of the Department of the English Language, D.Sc., Prof., represented ChNU at the presentation of Baseline Study report of major experts in English language teaching R. Bolitho and R. West, took part in the meeting (Kyiv) with the Ministry of Education and Science representatives and universities authorities participating in the “English for Universities” project on common strategy and steps in improving English language teaching in Ukraine and at ChnU, in particular.

To study and implement the European practices, to improve international communication and collaboration in the academic sector, thirteen department members took part in British Council teacher training seminars held in Pushcha Vodytsia, Kyiv (28.06.15–11.07.15 – O. Maniutina; 4.07.15–11.07.15 – T. Venkel, O. Venkel, S. Bortnyk, O. Unhurian); in Snovyanka, Chernihiv region (24.08.15–30.08.15 – Y. Kovalyuk, T. Mrachkovska); in Kyiv (24.11.15 – 30.11.15 – O. Dribniuk, M. Tanasesku), in Lviv (1.12.15 – 7.12.15 – Y. Cherepnaya, L. Makoviychuk), in Kyiv (10.01.16 – 16.01.16 – S. Balanyuk, S. Kozubska, 01.02.16 – 05.02.16, 03.04.16 – 06.04.16, 25.06.16 – 28.06.16 – O. Maniutina) and were awarded corresponding certificates (App., Table 3).

To share the acquired practices and skills, teachers of the department took an active part in practical seminar on teaching ELT, ESP and EAP regularly held at the Department of Foreign Languages under the guidance of Nadiya Yesypenko, Head of the Department of the English Language, D.Sc., Prof., O. Maniutina, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages for Natural Sciences, Associate Prof. and B. Labinska, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages for Humanities, D.Sc., Prof. O. Maniutina, T. Mrachkovska, Y. Kovalyuk, O. Unhurian, S. Kozubska, Y. Cherepnia, S. Bortnyk, T. Venkel and many other participants held the following reports, accordingly: “Introduction to ESP/EAP”, “Principles of ESP Methodology”, “ESP Methodology Essentials” in accordance with the dissemination plan. Teachers actively responded to proposed activities and readily discussed relevant problems of English language teaching (App., Tables 1,2).

### **At systemic level:**

The discussion at seminars resulted in proposing activities for inter-departmental and international scientific cooperation targeted at specific needs and preferences. As a result of British Council Ukraine English for Universities Project the department got a chance to develop FLNSD cooperation with other departments of CHNu.

After June-July 2015, February and April 2016 ESP Course Module Design Training we reported to rector and organised a series of meetings with administration of 2 institutes and 3 faculties. The information on the entry and target exit levels that students should meet in their ESP/EAP courses at university, curriculum, syllabi, materials, possible opportunities presented at the meetings facilitates the provision of better understanding of the language proficiency levels, standards and number of hours required for language courses delivered by FLNSD (as defined by the CEFR).

The head of the FLNSD was assured that faculty is free to choose any affordable materials/resources and will have administrative support in the work. After meetings and consultations in 2016-2017 Computer Sciences, Tourism, Nanochemistry, Biology and students of some other specialisms will have more classes per week, more ESP, general English only at the first semester.

### **At the departmental level:**

Since July 2015 we have been promoting new trends in ESP/EAP learning and teaching and have a number of steps made:

- Dissemination of the two phases of the “English for Universities Project” conclusions presented in “A Baseline Study on ESP and EMI Teaching in Ukrainian Universities (phase 2)” by Rod Bolitho and Richard West, British Council Baseline Study conclusions and recommendations by Zhanna Sevastianova and Gerry McIntosh;

- Reports on the results of British Council trainings to the departmental and university authorities, faculty, postgraduates and students at the meetings, seminars and Young Scientist First School;
- EAP and ESP teaching improvement seminar: exchange of opinions after the summer, autumn and winter schools of BC project “English for universities”. 2015–2016, 2016-2017 Department Development Planning (new methods in teaching ESP/EAP, CPD of assistant and associate professors of the dept, committee of teaching methodology work planning (based on British Council recommendations);
- University Action plan implementation phases presentation and discussion;
- Arrangements made: dissemination events plan; planning the seminars series; 2015–2016, 2016-2017 course and syllabus design guidelines (based on *English for Specific Purposes (ESP) National Curriculum for Universities, 2005, ESP Syllabus*; discussion strategies teachers need to develop more autonomy in their students; general information about British Council and the teacher’s development programs;
- Regular reports on dissemination events plan implementation by the head of Foreign languages for natural sciences department to the English Language projects manager, Zhanna Sevastianova (Table 1, 2).

### **Students and EMI**

Most of Natural and other Sciences students that our department teach realise that English is essential for their future careers and stated (according to BC questionnaire) that they need more English classes and hours, would learn better in smaller groups selected according to their English-proficiency level. But notwithstanding all measures taken and steps made, the situation with English leaves much to be desired. That is why the initiative of British Council to register people for on-line course “English Pathways” pilot version was supported by 217 students participants and assistance in organisation of its work was provided by the representatives of our department. Specially designed course was used as an opportunity for University students to improve and master their English Language skills.

In cooperation with **ChNU Language Centre** the teachers of the department contributed to giving courses to students, graduates and postgraduates of the university. The courses differ according to the students’ aim in mastering English (EGP, EGAP, EAP, EGSP, ESP); the groups consist of not more than 8 students, they are selected according to the initial level of the student’s proficiency in English. Besides, there are courses for ESP students (advanced level – for straight “A” students only) that can develop the students’ skills (English vocabulary, grammar practice, speaking and listening) and enable the students to defend their Bachelor/Master’s theses in English. The ChNU Language Centre cooperates with BC for preparation and taking the APTIS tests on the basis of ChNU.

17 candidates from different departments of the university have successfully passed the APTIS test in 2016, showing good results: 4 “C” marks; 9 – “B2” and 2 – “B1”).

With colleagues from foreign languages department a variant of an open letter to the Ministry of education to support the initiative of implementation the experimental module syllabus design was discussed. Within the project framework a focus group of teachers at the department was selected, these were members of committee of teaching methodology. The university focus group of 2 doctors and 2 associated professors (HoD of Foreign Languages for Natural Sciences, Associate Prof. Olena Maniutina, HoD of FL for Humanities Bogdana Labinska, D.Sc and Nadiya Yesypenko, Head of the Department of English, D.Sc., Oksana Petrenko, Associate prof. of FL for Humanities Department) participated in the discussion of module and syllabus drafts. At the end of February the results of ESP course module design training and Follow-up 03-06 April 16 training was discussed with focus group. In March in cooperation with representatives of institutes the specialisms for experimental implementation of the new syllabus were chosen.

From the beginning of March University focus group had two meetings: at the first O. Maniutina was advised what topics should be included into the programme so it will correspond most of specialisms for both departments (Foreign Languages for Natural Sciences and FL for Humanities Department) at the last one in May the ideas as to finalising the draft of module 3 were discussed, parts of the syllabus draft and introduction to the syllabus in Ukrainian was presented. As a result ESP syllabus was designed in house and discussed with project participants, Heads of Departments from nine Ukrainian universities in June, the presentation of the new ESP syllabi in- house and its implementation in 7 groups is expected in August – November, 2016 and February, 2017.

### **English teachers:**

13 members of the department took part in summer, autumn and winter teacher training weeks supported by the British Council in 2015-2016 to be up-to-date professionally, continue professional development and have MoE required regular advanced training for teaching staff. This resulted in launching a new seminar on Methods of ESP Teaching at our department. These seminars are primarily aimed at improving professional skills of young teachers, advancing methods of English language teaching as well as giving professional support to teachers in advanced writing.

A practical seminar on teaching ELT and ESP is now regularly held at the Department of Foreign Languages for Natural Sciences under the guidance of O. Maniutina in accordance with the dissemination plan for the first and second semester. Teachers discuss new methods, materials and relevant problems of English language teaching. The discussion resulted in proposing activities for

inter-departmental and university cooperation contributed to establishing close professional contacts, exchange of teaching materials and educational and scientific experience with our colleagues from different departments.

Yuri Kovaliuk participated in “English for Academics” trainings within the British Council English for Universities project (29.02.16-03.03.16 – phase I and 06.06.16-08.06.16 – phase II). During Phase 1 Yuri got acquainted with methodology principles and attitudes as for teaching English for postgraduates and specialism teachers and professors on the basis of English for Academics Book I.

As the result of Phase 1 the pilot version of “English for Academics Syllabus” on the basis of English for Academics Book I was designed and 10 (20 academic hours) classes were delivered in March – April 2016 for specialism teachers from Institute of Biology, Chemistry, Bio resources, Institute of Physics Technology and Computer Sciences and Geography Department.

The second Phase of the training was devoted to the reports on the work done and mini-teaching demonstration with the best students of the course from different universities (CHNU was successfully presented by Oleksiy Roschupkin, assistant of computer systems and networks department).

Staff members of Foreign languages for natural sciences department are well-qualified academically, many take high degrees, and reach the proficiency level required for University teachers. As well-motivated teachers they felt lack of suitable resources for effective teaching and CPD, so it was decided on the institutional level to order new authentic literature from international publishers for the university, foreign languages faculty and departmental libraries for the next (2016-2017) academic year.

In conclusion we admit also the need:

- to arrange meetings, consultations, seminars and trainings to improve ESP/EAP teaching and study skills, to share knowledge on modern methodology, ESP/EAP curriculum design, to continue implementation of British Council ESP curriculum and apply British Council recommendations;
- to produce new home-made materials with focus on task-based teaching methods and learner-centered approach to teaching ESP/EAP and contribute to setting up ESP Textbook Development unit at the Foreign Languages Department;
- to be trained how to construct tests or other assessment instruments to determine if levels are being attained as there is a pressing need for English teachers to be trained in methods of assessment and testing.