

# Future English

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Online Teacher Community - Georgia  
Information for English teachers

მასწავლებელთა ონლაინ საზოგადოება -  
საქართველო  
ინფორმაცია ინგლისური ენის  
მასწავლებელთათვის



Online Teacher Community is a new British Council peer-led online platform for English language teachers which provides a forum where teachers can engage in new ideas and relevant discussions, share knowledge and experience, reflect on their practice and take part in research.

In Georgia this initiative was transformed into a collaboration project with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and the National Centre for Teacher Professional Development (TPDC).

Within the joint project, the MoES and TPDC will pilot the Online Teacher Community model for all English teachers. This will not only give them the opportunity to trial out the new CPD support systems through online communities of practice with teachers in the Georgian context, but also enable them to adopt the model and features of Online Teacher Community in the design of the unified national platform of "e-Education House" for all subject teachers.

The success of this programme is dependent on regular, effective participation of teachers within online activity groups as well as engagement and support of Facilitators and school leaders in order to achieve desired outcomes and to have full clarity on the ground about this offer.

Jointly with the British Council, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the National Centre for Teacher Professional Development have identified a pool of Facilitators. The Facilitators will not only be responsible to support effective work of the online teacher community within this particular project but also to actively engage in reform initiatives supporting online continuing professional development of English teachers, communities of practice and strengthen professional collaboration culture between teachers on national scale.

### **How does Online Teacher Community (OTC) Georgia Pilot work?**

- The British Council will register English teachers on the OTC Platform that hosts teacher activity groups from different countries. Georgia Country OTC group will be created as well as up to 70 sub-groups (RC groups) according to the existing Education Resource Centres in Georgia.
- Up to 130 facilitators recruited within the project will be assigned to lead the online CPD work of each Resource Centre group on the platform. Recruited Facilitators underwent special training programme to take up the role. The work of Facilitators on the Platform will be observed by the British Council Global Moderators for 3 months. In addition to facilitators, Georgia country group on the Online Teacher Community will have an international lead country moderator who will be responsible for supporting facilitators and quality assuring forum discussions. In addition to that, the moderator is also a lead for one of the Special Interest Groups which teachers can join based on their areas of interest, experience and local teaching context
- Following registration on the platform, teachers must engage in the following activities within their local RC groups:
  - Regular moderated forum discussions (topics for forum discussions are selected to meet the needs of teachers and are part of a set programme of key topics and issues).
  - Monthly webinars delivered by ELT experts (British Council trainers, external UK guest speakers, country guest speakers etc.)
  - Monthly live discussions led by local Facilitators
  - Monthly self-access training modules on specific ELT topics
  - Development of personal e-portfolios
  - Participation in one (mandatory) or more Special Interest Groups (Special Educational Needs, Action Research, Multilingual approaches, Climate Action in ELT, 21st Century Skills, ICT in Education)
  - Monthly reflections on how new learning gained through the OTC activities has worked in practice.

### **What other interactions are available on the Online Teacher Community Platform?**

Outside the respective local RC groups teachers can:

- connect with other groups and other teachers within their larger 'Georgia' country community through forum discussions;
- interact on the wider platform with teachers from other countries through regular monthly webinars and forum discussions in Special Interest Groups,

### **Why should you join the Online Teacher Community Georgia Programme?**

The Online Teacher Community (OTC) platform has been designed with the aim to develop English language teaching communities in Georgia as well as to grow the British Council's interaction and support for English language teachers.

Partnering with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the National Centre for Teacher Professional Development, training local OTC facilitators and providing teachers with access to networking, forums, resources, webinars, training etc. will ensure y teachers engage in new ideas and relevant discussions online on regular basis. They will also share knowledge and experience, join large online events with well-established ELT speakers, reflect on their practice and take part in training and research. These are the desired outcomes :

- Develop sense of ownership of different models of continuing professional development
- Raise awareness of the latest trends and in ELT methodology, including the current importance of effective remote teaching and learning of English
- Develop more effective classroom practice reflective skills
- Increase motivation in trying and applying new concepts, approaches and techniques in their classroom through shared action planning and reflection
- Develop student-focused approaches in lesson plan development that's in line with "New School Model" requirements
- Ensure better quality teaching and learning in the classrooms

The specific outcomes of the OTC Georgia project are as follows:

- Teachers in Georgia are engaged in Communities of Practice in support of their professional development
- Teachers in Georgia accept the idea of self-development and take ownership of their own CPD
- ***Through OTC engagement, teachers in Georgia meet the obligation set within school based professional development standards that supports their career progression and obtaining higher level teacher status within the National Teacher Professional Development and Career Progression Scheme.***

## How to apply?

Please complete the online application form available [here](#) by **25 September 2021**.

Please note :

- Participation in the OTC Georgia Project is free of charge;
- All state school English teachers can apply for participation in OTC Georgia Project;
- All applicants will be registered in respective Resource Centre Groups and get OTC Platform enrolment e-mail confirmations from September 2021;
- All applicants will have access to the OTC Platform activities from September 2021 to March 2022;
- All applicants are required to provide correct personal details ( full name as in the ID) and valid e-mail address;
- Engagement in OTC Georgia programme will require participants to have basic knowledge of ICT and access to internet and computer or mobile devices;
- Teachers will receive guidance documents and will have series of tutorials available on the Platform to help them become aware of the different features of the Platform from September 2021;
- Teachers will receive further support (**online only**) from OTC Georgia Facilitators as well as the British Council global Moderators and technical team of the Platform throughout the programme;
- This is available \*only\* for state school teachers;
- ***Teachers must commit to being active and to spend at least 8 hours a month on their professional development activities within the OTC platform***

