



Background to Glasgow ESOL Forum

Glasgow ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Forum was established in 1998 as a membership organisation for ESOL professionals in Glasgow. Its membership comprised of ESOL teachers, tutors and volunteers from all sectors. In 2004 the Forum became incorporated and obtained charitable status. The organisation currently delivers two externally funded projects – ESOL for Work Project and Volunteer Tutor Project.

Mission

Our mission is to assist the integration, employability and personal development of asylum seekers, refugees, economic migrants and marginalised black and minority (BME) groups by developing their proficiency in English Language.

Our projects

The **Volunteer Tutor Project** was set up in 2002. In its current form, funded, mostly, by the Scottish Government's Adult Learning and Empowering Communities Fund, the project recruits and supports qualified volunteer ESOL tutors to assist the organisation in providing free high-quality English classes for marginalised groups. Our volunteer tutors teach individuals or classes, set up in partnership with community based organisations. Our main partners are Central and West Integration Network, Maryhill Integration Network, Glasgow West Integration Network and Glasgow City Mission.

Progression routes for learners include moving onto further education, taking up voluntary work or employment. Learners report better integration due to their increased confidence in their language skills. For volunteers, we provide the opportunity to develop their teaching skills and some move on to ESOL teaching positions. However, many volunteers remain with us for several years, reporting a strong connection to their learners and to the project.

Over the last year, from 2016-17, the project supported 200 learners and over 40 tutors. The project has funding in place until March 2019.

The **ESOL for Work Project** was established in 2006 and is funded through the Scottish Government Equality Fund with additional funding from the ESOL Strategy (Integrated Grant) fund. The ESOL for Work Project comprises workplace language courses and ESOL for Employability courses for BME employees and jobseekers to:

- improve language skills and confidence with English

- increase participation in vocational ESOL training to improve work performance
- reduce barriers to employment, training and educational opportunities
- engage better with public sector agencies

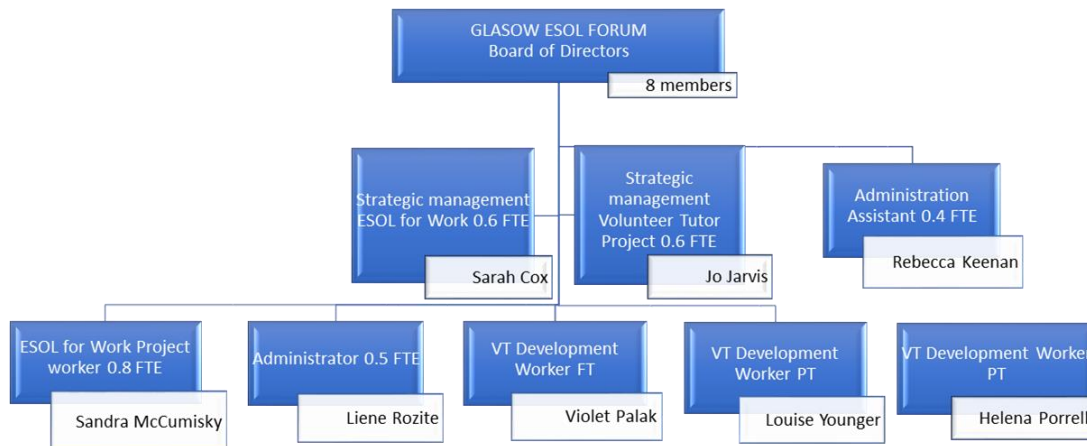
Since 2006 the project has worked with learners across a wide variety of sectors including transport, healthcare, hospitality and manufacturing. The courses that we deliver are vocationally specific and aim to address the specific language needs of learners working within that organisation. Employers we have worked with include the NHS, First Bus, ACS Clothing, G1 Group and Big Issue and Scottish Refugee Women’s Strategy Group.

In 2009 we gained SQA accredited status and became one of the first SQA centres in Scotland to offer the new ESOL for Work Qualifications at SCQF levels 4 and 5. We are currently delivering NQ Units at Access 2, National 3 and National 4.

In year two of our Equalities Grant we worked with 159 learners. The project is funded until July 2017. We have applied to the Scottish Government for further funding and are awaiting a response.

Drop-in ESOL enquiries Our office in Central Glasgow receives daily enquiries from learners about accessing ESOL in Glasgow and we provide a signposting service.

Organisational chart



May 2017