

e-Tutorials for Educators: English for the Educational Web

English for Professional Development

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Duration: 3 semesters

The innovative e-course *e-Tutorials for Educators: English for the Educational Web* was designed for the Center of Educational Studies, the Faculty of Education, and started in 2006 as part of the distance Master's programme. The course is aimed at helping Russian educators, whose knowledge of English is typically poor, to overcome the language barrier and effectively explore the Educational Web communicating with educators worldwide. The course consists of six e-units with tasks combining the development of the relevant vocabulary, reading, searching, navigating and analytic skills. In the course, students are enhanced to search, surf, investigate and critically assess educational web-sites and share their reflections and analysis with the rest of the e-group. Taking into account the low level of English of some of the students and the fact that writing skills are not developed in this course, students are allowed to present their reflections not only in English, but in Russian. Upon the completion of each unit, the e-tutor collects the students' ideas and presents them systematically in comments along with her recommendations and language notes. This enables all the members of the e-group to communicate and proceed with their studies obtaining the collective sense of achievement. Thus they develop their communication skills within the electronic professional environment.

The course has been delivered both in the fully distant, and in blended learning formats; it was initially based on emailing, but later was re-designed for the Moodle platform. All the versions proved successful.

The methodology of the e-course, its programme and outcomes are presented in I.Korotkina's publications *English for Professional Development in the Information Age* (200 p., published by "Logos: Universitetskaya Kniga", 2009), *The World Wide Educational Web and ICT in Language Teaching* (271 p., part of educational project for the Academy of National Economy) and a number of articles (see Irina Korotkina's publications on <http://www.msses.ru/education/faculties/alc/professors/>).

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