

Cambridge English

CELT-S

Certificate in English Language Teaching – Secondary

International English language qualifications for professional teacher development

Client: Turkish Education Association

Country: Turkey



Teachers from one of Turkey's largest school chains have been working towards an international qualification from Cambridge English Language Assessment as part of a programme of professional development.

The Turkish Education Association (TED) is a national chain of 35 private schools, from pre-school and secondary level, which has a policy of encouraging English language teaching and learning, and a proactive approach to teacher development. For this reason, TED wanted to introduce an international English teaching qualification into its professional development programme, in order to develop and enhance classroom skills and improve confidence in English language ability. The qualification would also play an important role in the retention and recruitment of high-quality teaching staff.

To achieve these goals, TED offered the Cambridge English *CELT-S* qualification (the *Certificate in English Language Teaching – Secondary*) to a group of teachers from across the TED network. *CELT-S* is specifically for English teachers working in secondary education and is designed to improve classroom performance through a combination of online study and observed teaching practice. In the case of the TED participants, the course also included classroom sessions held in Ankara.

This blended learning approach proved ideal for the TED teachers taking part. Online modules could be completed at a time convenient to each course participant, teachers were observed (by trained TED staff) during scheduled classes, and

the off-site classroom sessions delivered maximum impact in terms of shared experience and collaborative learning. In addition, by combining study with work, teachers could immediately add new skills to their classroom practice.

Sixteen teachers took part in the first *CELT-S* training programme which comprised around 120 hours of study undertaken over a six-month period. Participants reported immediate and positive impacts from the first day of the course, welcoming the mix of practical and theoretical coursework, and commenting that the course was 'up to date' and reflected 'real situations which we face during our teaching'.

TED senior managers have also noticed the positive impact of the *CELT-S* course. According to Dr Fatma Ataman, TED Foreign Language Co-ordinator, there has been a 'significant improvement in the teaching skills of those who attended the *CELT-S* course', underlining the value of the qualification as an efficient and effective professional development tool, which adds real value to a teacher's CV.

'CELT-S is the full package — it is a really useful training programme which every teacher should experience.'
