Level- and Content-differentiated EFL Courses at Tertiary Level

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Trainee teachers of English for primary school are offered a choice of three different EFL courses in their first year of study. Considering students’ needs and language abilities, the courses focus either on language improvement, gaining the required C1 qualification or classroom language for primary teachers. To maximise the limited time available, learner autonomy and peer assessment are central to the course design.

Background to course design:
- recent introduction of English as a foreign language in primary schools;
- national requirement of C1 level for primary language teachers;
- stratified Swiss school system leading to inconsistent students’ CEFR entry levels.

Main focus on ELT methodology rather than language training

Limited resources for language courses: 3 ECTS

Level- and content-differentiated courses designed with contact sessions fortnightly over 2 semesters and a guided self-study programme.

Three Level- and Content-differentiated Courses

B2-C1 English
This course caters for students at B2 level who are working on improving their general language competence to C1 level.

Students
- learn useful language study skills;
- improve their receptive skills;
- gain confidence in speaking;
- plan and produce several types of writing (Writing Dossier);
- prepare for internal B2+ exam end of second semester.

The self-study is sensible and helps me in my personal development.

- the effort brings a sense of improvement. Working and reviewing in groups is enjoyable and instructive.

Student anecdotes

My writing partner's English isn't better than mine and we aren't teachers. So, we don't know if feedback is correct or not.

Understanding the metacognitive aspects of peer feedback is crucial to mutually accepting it as beneficial.

References: