

Specialisation: Research in ELT 1.0

The benefits of research in ELT

SUMMARY

Ana Bratkovic is interviewing Professor Phil Chappell, Deputy Head, Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University, Dr Alexander Nanni, Associate Dean for International Affairs, Mahidol University International College and Dr Patrick Pheasant, NEAS CEO about Research in ELT

1. What does research mean?

- Identifying an issue/theme you wish to understand or learn more about
- Implementing a systematic process or approach to understand that issue/theme
- Individuals can pick an issue which is rewarding to them and which they wish to investigate
- Research is for everyone as there is a range of research activities on the continuum from writing a reflection to a thesis
- Research doesn't have to be in a formal setting, can be conducted in the classroom so that students can benefit from teachers improving their practices
- An important aspect is communication and sharing your ideas with others in, for example, workshops or writing a journal article
- Sharing research at conferences promotes more research being conducted or replicated by others who are interested in the same area
- How do we know what we are doing is working? The structure of research is important in discovering this
- Global conversations about the same issues can be shared through research, and drives growth in your practices
- Research allows you to challenge the concept of the 'expert novice' by putting your intuitions to the test

2. Benefits of incorporating research into teaching practice

- Motivates students to think about their learning and motivates teachers to think about the impact their teaching has on their learners
- Exploratory Practice includes students in the research activity
- Research allows the teacher to articulate to the student why they do something, broadens understanding of teaching practices amongst students
- Connecting and networking with others who are like-minded and sharing what each other has learned
- Researchers are approachable and very willing to talk about their research
- Global opportunities to connect with others who are having similar conversations