Avalon Language Teacher Training Certification Process

ICC Certification

Assessment of trainees

The aims and objectives of training leading to the Certificate include that trainees

- can use the basic features in Second Life necessary to navigate and move around;
- have an understanding of the role of a language teacher in virtual worlds and situate themselves within that role;
- manage a range of technologies and tools afforded by 3D world learning and other tools used during the course (working on the Moodle platform, using Skype etc.);
- demonstrate a critical view and understanding on issues related to the potential of Second Life in education
- are able to identify resources to support them in their teaching in virtual worlds
- can plan, set up and conduct a language session in SL

These objectives built a crucial point of orientation in the process of gauging the actual AVALON Teacher Training Certificate.

Throughout the training period trainees will be able to work on tasks that will provide evidence that they have reached this level of competence. This evidence is collected in a **Portfolio** which will form the basis for the final assessment and for certification.

The Certification Portfolio*

An appraisal of the trainees is based on their Portfolios which include evidence of key tasks carried out by the trainees, reflecting the objectives specified in the Trainer Manual. Evidence can be given for example by photos of in-world scenarios, videoclips or recordings in SL etc.
Each trainee submits a **Certification Portfolio** to his/her course tutor(s) by the end of the training course within a given time.

Each Certification Portfolio is fronted by a Submission Sheet.** The Submission Sheet contains a checklist of all the elements contained in the portfolio and a signed declaration that the trainee is submitting these elements for the purpose of certification.

The Portfolios are verified by the course tutor(s) and an external assessor. After the course tutor has completed his/ her assessment, he/she sends the results to the ICC for further verification by an external assessor, who checks the tutor's assessment and submits a written report for each trainee.***

The reports will be send to the training institution together with the certificates.

Rejection of the Certification Portfolios
Trainees can be asked to resubmit their Portfolios within a given time limit if the contents are incomplete or inadequate

The certificate

The AVALON Trainer Certificate is issued by the ICC, International Certificate Conference e.V., and bears the signature of the President of the ICC and the signature of the AVALON Training Institution.
The Certificate offers proof of successful participation in the training course and the competences of the award holder.

The Certificate shows on the front
- Name of Participant
- Event and Date
- Signatures and Stamp

The reverse of the Certificate shows the competences of the holders:

Holders of the **AVALON Teacher Training Certificate** in Virtual and Action Learning live ONline have successfully participated in a six weeks online training course in Second Live© (SL) and have demonstrated the following skills and competencies in teaching languages in virtual worlds:

➢ Using the basic features of Second Life (sitting, standing, walking, flying, using the voice feature, using text chat, taking snapshots);

➢ Changing appearance:

➢ Finding the way around the Avalon Island;

➢ Showing awareness of the impact of   'identity' in language teaching in SL

- ➢ Socializing in SL through networking (adding friends and using the Instant Message (IM) facility;
- ➢ Producing note cards and explaining ways of using them in language teaching;

- ➢ Using basic navigational skills (e.g. creating landmarks, teleporting and map reading);
- ➢ Exploring other islands;
- ➢ Building basic objects in SL including scripting
  Understanding and taking the role of a Second Life teacher in a 3D learning environment;
- ➢ Managing the technologies afforded by 3D world learning environments and tools;
- ➢ Creating and using SL interfaces with the rest of the Web;
- ➢ Using appropriate tools for presentations in Second Life;
- ➢ Demonstrating a critical awareness of advantages and disadvantages in language teaching and learning in Second Life;
- ➢ Planning, preparing and conducting language sessions in SL

Records

Training institutions must keep copies of their trainees' Certification Portfolios for at least five years: These documents are open for inspection by other assessors or ICC representatives.

Appeals procedure

In the event that a trainee feels that their Portfolio has been unfairly assessed, he/she may appeal in writing to the training institution.The training institution will contact the ICC Secretariat to have the Portfolio re-assessed by a different appraiser.

Tariffs

The following tariff is defined at an international level by the ICC:
The basic (international) certificate fee is 100 Euros for each trainee. This includes the assessment of of the Portfolio by an external assessor and producing the certificates.

* A Certification Portfolio was not used in the pilot course. The assessment and evaluation was done in oral form. Feedback was exchanged between tutors and observers.
** As no Portfolios had been used for the pilot course therefore no Submission Sheet required.
*** The reports on the pilot course were done in personal tutorials in oral form.

Acknowledgements

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