



International School of Peace: Adults

École Internationale pour la Paix
مدرسه بين المللى صلح

المدرسة الدولية للسلام
בית הספר לשלום לילדי פליטים ביוון



Lesvos Adult School offers a safe, student-centric learning environment for language and arts classes for the adult refugee community. We aim to engage students' intellect and curiosity, and to reinforce their sense of accomplishment, self-worth, and responsibility to self and others.

1. OBJECTIVES

- Provide **language** learning opportunities to the adult refugee population, focusing on **English** and **Greek**, supplemented by **music, visual arts** (by REFocus), and **tech literacy** education
- Provide **teaching opportunities** to the members of the community who show strong proficiency in the School subject
- Build strong **partnerships** with other Adult learning organizations on the island and create a network of **support, collaboration**, and mutual **organizational development**
- Promote the **future-oriented** sentiment amidst challenging circumstances by focusing on the students' **skills** and **abilities**

2. TARGET GROUPS

- The target group for classes are **adult** members of the refugee community, anyone over 18 years of age. Our student body is roughly 80% Persian speakers, 10% Arabic speakers, and 10% speakers of other languages
- We offer a dedicated **women-only** ABC level lesson. For women with children we offer childcare at the nearby One Happy Family center (for the duration of the class)
- For English classes, each term we have **~380 enrolled** students, of those **~280 attend** school each term, and on any given day we have **between 150-200 pupils in the classrooms**

3. LESSONS

- **English:** 12 daily classes across 5 levels, from the foundational (level ABC) to the basics of the navigational, shopping, medical, legal needs (level 1 & 2), and two levels of more advanced/discussion-based competencies
- **Music:** Two levels of guitar + piano and voice class, daily
- **Photo/Video:** Offered by the partner organization, Re-FOCUS
- All lessons are **75 minutes** long
- The term is **5 weeks:** 4 weeks of teaching + a week of review and graduation party
- **Greek:** *Currently on hold, looking for an instructor*

4. TEACHING METHODS

- Our pedagogy follows CELTA/TEFL methods and practices - from how we teach vocabulary/grammar, to classroom organization, to the progression of the curriculum
- Teacher **training** diversifies the methods of student engagement: **formal** (setting objectives as a group at the start of the term, discussions of individual learning goals) and **informal** (in-class games for groups, extracurricular projects)
- Each lesson includes a review of the prior lesson, new material, guided practice activities and **collaborative production tasks**
- School pass, checked at the gate every day, adds the sense of discipline, respect, and pride to the learners' experience

5. TEACHING MATERIAL

- Our volunteer pedagogical trainers created **four levels of the curriculum** (Levels ABC and 1-3) and oversaw the creation of the extensive and growing **materials library** to maximize student interactions, equip teachers with adequate learning tools, and to infuse learning with the elements of play and ease
- Level 4 uses a less structured collection of **conversational topics** and **storytelling-based grammar lessons**
- All materials that we use are in English, with supplements in Farsi, Arabic, and French where necessary
- Classes utilize **worksheets, custom-built reading materials, and listening exercises in upper levels**

6. FUNDING

Funding for the program comes from **private donations** and **foundations**.

7. EVALUATION

- **Bi-weekly teacher meetings** and **individual teacher conversations** help assess the quality and applicability of the curriculum. Students are given **progression tests** at the end of each term. **Weekly quizzes** gauge the learners' knowledge and offer teachers insights into the teaching methods and styles
- Teachers perform **1 or 2 observations per week**, using a custom-built form, and share their observations with the rest of the group. Directors of the school conduct **bi-weekly reviews of the program's processes** and make necessary adjustments
- Feedback is gathered from the School's **pedagogical advisors**, ISOP:Kids, and **other learning organizations** on Lesvos

8. TEACHER PROFILE

- All but two teachers are members of the refugee community, **~40% have Bachelor degrees**, about half had experience teaching English, in formal education centers or as tutors
- Teaching staff is supplemented by **1 or 2 int'l volunteers** who focus on Level 3 & 4 but also team-teach in the lower levels
- **Teacher development program** includes group sessions focusing on techniques, subject areas and level-specific material and methodologies. **Individual training sessions** with one of our remote pedagogical consultants are also available (/Skype)
- In 2020 we plan to offer **advanced English classes** to improve teachers' language proficiency (based on IELTS prep courses)

9. PROBLEMS / CHALLENGES

- **Transportation:** due to the location of the school students have to walk 45-60 minutes to get to class, which presents a significant issue especially for the elderly and women w/kids
- **Capacity:** we have a substantial waiting list for willing students that we can't accommodate due to the space constraints.
- **Attendance:** legal intricacies, appointments, and obligations of the students prevent them from coming to school everyday; average classroom presence is ~2.8 days per week
- **Recruitment:** we are lucky to have volunteers who are passionate about teaching and had been at the school for 4-5 months, but we always seek new teachers to expand our staff

10. PROSPECTS

INFORMATION

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