

TEACHING IN LINC

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)

LINC is an English language training program for adult immigrants and refugees. The program is funded federally by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The LINC program facilitates the social, cultural and economic integration of immigrants and refugees into Canada by providing language instruction as well as information that helps newcomers become oriented to the Canadian way of life.



Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Training

Most LINC programs require or prefer to hire instructors with TESL training from a program recognized by TESL Canada. Programs are offered across the country in face-to-face, online, and blended formats, with a range of lengths and credentials.

<https://www.tesl.ca/training/tesl-canada-recognized-teacher-training-programs.html>

Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)

The Canadian Language Benchmarks are a descriptive scale of English language ability of 12 benchmarks ranging from basic to advanced. The LINC program levels are based on the CLB. Although there are 12 CLB levels, the LINC program places priority on the lower levels, with some classes up to CLB 8. LINC instructors are expected to align their instruction according to the CLB descriptors.



CLB & Literacy Training

The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB) provides free online training on their E-learning portal at learning.language.ca. Self-directed CLB training courses available to anyone include: CLB Bootcamp, Maximizing the CLB Support Kit, An Orientation to ESL for Adult Literacy Learners, and ESL for ALL Support Kit Training. Other training on the CCLB online portal can only be accessed by referral from a government-funded program.

Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA)

PBLA is a classroom-based teaching and assessment approach used by LINC programs across Canada to evaluate a learner's language ability in a CLB level. Instructors provide a variety of language activities and real-world assessment tasks and learners collect samples of their work over time in a portfolio binder. When a learner has collected 8-10 samples in each skill, and if the samples demonstrate that most of the CLB descriptors for the level have been met, the learner receives a Progress Report and LINC Certificate.



PBLA Training

LINC program administrators can register instructors for the online "Introduction to PBLA for New Classroom Teachers" training on the CCLB's E-learning Portal. The course is usually offered for 5 weeks multiple times per year in the Fall and Spring. Some LINC programs provide in-house PBLA training with Lead Teachers in lieu of or in addition to the online training. The PBLA Practice Guidelines website pblapg.language.ca is an official reference for PBLA that is accessible to anyone.