

Reflections from the 58th IATEFL Conference

By Eleni Challouma

Last April, I was honoured to represent the Pancyprian Association of English Teachers at the 58th Annual Conference and Exhibition of the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL) in Edinburgh. The city of Edinburgh, with its rich history, vibrant culture, and literary heritage, offered the perfect backdrop for this gathering. I am excited to share my experiences from the Conference, which I attended with great anticipation.

The conference brought together nearly 3,000 delegates (educators, researchers, and passionate individuals) from around the world, providing a unique opportunity to connect, access the latest teaching methods, build professional networks and proudly represent their teaching institutions by sharing their ideas and research with delegates from other establishments. The grand total of over 500 sessions and five world-class plenaries during the week guaranteed that there was something for everyone. Additionally, the exhibition hall, which welcomed over 40 publishers, testing organisations, course-providers, ELT Tech companies and more, offered a wide variety of resources and networking opportunities.

At the Conference, I engaged with thought-provoking plenaries, insightful workshops, and dynamic discussions on various topics related to English Language Teaching. I gained fresh perspectives and knowledge, which contributed to my expertise and professional growth. I also networked with like-minded professionals, forming meaningful connections. Moreover, I had the privilege to attend a variety of sessions that covered innovative teaching methodologies, technology integration, and best practices in language education. I was particularly inspired by discussions like the one on the transformative potential of English language proficiency tests for international students which are designed not merely as a one-time gateway to university admission all over the world (as most universities around the world offer study programs in English), but as instruments that prepare learners to thrive, survive, and flourish in higher education environments and beyond. The panel, composed of academics, assessment specialists and international students, discussed real-world language skills most critical for academic success.

One of the key takeaways I would like to share is the importance of adaptability in our teaching methods. The education landscape is constantly evolving, especially now with the advent of AI. It is vital in this fast-changing environment to respond as educators to our students' needs and challenges.

The participation in International Conferences in general helps us, as educators, foster a space for innovation and collaboration that enhances our teaching practices and shapes the future of our language education. Finally, we should remember that English language teachers have the power to transform our students into future global citizens through meaningful language learning.

Useful links for English teachers:

- 58th International IATEFL Conference
<https://www.iateflconference.org/2025/2025-plenary-recordings>
- National Geographic Webinars
https://webinars.eltngl.com/library/?_sft_category=teens&_sft_post_tag=projects
- To engage teenage learners with projects
<https://webinars.eltngl.com/engaging-teenage-learners-projects/>
- The artificial intelligence for your classroom
<https://to-teach.ai>

- To create a storybook

<https://www.storyjumper.com>

- LessonStream by Jamie Keddie to bring your lessons to life with the power of story

<https://www.lessonstream.com>

- A PPT-Teaching the quiet students by Michelle Worgan

<https://rb.gy/hkulr6>

- Inspiring Inquiries. Resource pack for exploring inquiry-based learning

<https://subscribepage.io/APAC2025>

- Suno AI for Music Creators

Create, elevate, and share music with *Suno AI*

- TurboScribe - An AI Transcription Tool

- Wheel of Names <https://wheelofnames.com>

Random name picker in the classroom: pick which student will answer the next question.

- International Association for Task-Based Language Teaching

<https://www.iatblt.org/>