

2023 LTANT Conference Grant Reflection

Jessica Bryan-Brown

French Teacher – Good Shepherd

"The conference was a fantastic experience. The venue was excellent, the speakers were very knowledgeable, and the opportunity to connect with so many language educators was invaluable.

As an early-career language teacher, the conference reinforced some key aspects of the profession, such as discerning use of technology and the need to be able to differentiate, as well as raise my awareness of other issues. Among them was the fact that while language teachers can and should be responsible for communicating cultural awareness, it is also critical to recognise that understanding and teaching the history and politics of a country is a different skillset to teaching a language, and that it is still necessary to insist on the importance of language learning, not primarily for national security, but for personal growth and interpersonal connection.

In terms of developing my practice, I especially appreciated the workshop given by Yuta Masuda on practical strategies for differentiation – this workshop showed me that it is indeed possible to significantly differentiate activities for separate groups even in a primary class, given that the groups are consistent, the next activity to undertake is clear, and that the teacher can evenly split their time between groups. This is something I have already put into practice while assessing my students, by leveraging engaging technology like Education Perfect to extend one group while I work directly with another.

It was also excellent to attend the workshop co-hosted by Luke Carter, showcasing examples of the Indigenous Languages Curriculum in action. This workshop opened my eyes to the creative possibilities and potential for deep learning inherent in not only the ILC, but in other language curriculums as well. This is something I plan to implement with my students in the weeks after assessment is complete, as well as for future writing assessments."

