

Nieves Díaz-Cueva

Language Co-ordinator for Spanish

Languages for All

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About

I have been teaching languages in Higher Education for almost 20 years. For as long as I can remember languages and culture(s) have been the main focus of my interests and my career.

Qualifications

Licenciada en Filología Románica: Francés (B.A in French Language and Literature) - Universidad de Oviedo

C.A.P (Curso de Orientación Pedagógica) (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) – Universidad de Extremadura/Universidad de Oviedo

Biography

Currently Nieves holds the post of Head of Spanish in Languages for All and Resources representative in the Department of Modern Languages.

After completing her degree and post graduate teaching qualification in Spain she started her teaching career by taking up the post of teaching assistant at the Lycee Watteau in Valenciennes, France.

On completion of her contract in France she moved to England. In the early years she taught Spanish and French at all levels in a variety of institutions: Colleges of Adult Education, a College of Further Education, a Sixth Form College and secondary schools in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Nieves joined Leicester University Language Centre, initially as a French tutor with some Spanish input, in October 1992. With the expansion of Spanish she was given the opportunity to take up the role of Spanish co-ordinator with responsibility for all aspects of Spanish provision, a post in which she remained until she joined the CML at Birmingham University as the Head of the Spanish section in January 1999.

Since 2006, apart from her role as Head of the Spanish section Nieves has been the Languages for All Quality Assurance representative; since 2009 she has also been the Resources representative of the Modern Languages Department.

Teaching

Nieves has experience in teaching on Spanish courses at all levels and of all types in addition to input on ELE teacher training programmes with focus upon intercultural aspects of language learning. Currently Nieves teaches Spanish Language Level 1 and 6 and Year 2 and 3 Tandem modules.

Research

In her capacity as a teaching practitioner and the manager responsible for ELE provision Nieves has participated in courses, conferences and workshops focused upon the methodology of language teaching and learning with particular interest in developments in the intercultural and the e-learning aspects of the field. Research and input in these areas of ELE have enabled Nieves to build them into the Spanish provision of Languages for All.

Other activities

Nieves gained early experience as a Visiting Oral Examiner of A level Spanish for the University of Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations going on to carry out the role of External Examiner at Buckingham University (Spanish BA), the University of Wales (Spanish/French/Italian BA), London School of Economics (Spanish BA/ BSc and MFL Certificate Course Programme) and Warwick University (Spanish BA).

Drawing upon a lifelong interest in languages and intercultural issues and building on her teaching and management experience Nieves has contributed as an organiser, coordinator and teacher in the delivery of teacher training courses in Spain for non-Spanish teachers of ELE which began as part of a 3 year Lingua Grant project and developed into an annual event: Curso Internacional de Formación Intercultural de Profesores de Español Lengua Extranjera, Spain. Subsequently Nieves has contributed as an organiser and coordinator on the Grant Socrates Lingua Action B Programme, participated as a member of the group on the Banco Multimedia de Material de Formación Intercultural Lingua Grant A Project and was a founder member and the Vice-president of the Association of Language Education Services (ALES).

Nieves has also been the co-ordinator of Open Access courses and has been involved in the co-ordination of Portuguese, Turkish and Summer courses in addition to holding the post of Co-editor of Vida Hispánica magazine, ALL.

Publications

EuroLab Spanish- Revilo Language Cards - Spanish taped dialogues, with accompanying booklet and task cards.

