The Bell Teacher Campus (Macao) is an exciting opportunity for you to refresh and extend your teaching skills with highly qualified and experienced native speaker trainers. With over 50 years’ experience of teaching English as a Foreign Language, Bell has developed a world class reputation for training some of the finest and most creative EFL teachers.

However, this is not just a training course but also a cultural experience. A range of exciting workshops will be available in the afternoons followed by an evening activity or cultural talk. In the evenings there will be a social excursion to places of local interest, including old parts of Macao, a local beach and a trip to the world’s largest gaming resort.

You will be able to meet teachers from different countries and compare your teaching contexts. Take advantage of the residential option at the centre and stay on the campus for the full twenty-four hour immersion experience. This all gives a unique atmosphere – a training programme and a conference! All in beautiful Macao!

Note that you can either enrol for a single one-week course or two different one-week courses. The TKT Preparation is a two-week course.

Week 1: 08 – 12 July 2013
Week 2: 15 – 19 July 2013

IELTS

REMAINING EXAMINATION DATES 2013

May 11th
June 22nd
July 27th
September 7th
October 26th
December 7th

Check our website for details

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“Bell Macao”

Tell us a bit about yourself.
I was born in Ireland but went to school in New Zealand. If I ever miss home it is usually New Zealand I am pining for. I really like to study foreign languages and I have been to school in Ireland, New Zealand, Korea and China. I like listening to music too and right now on my iPod I am listening to Bic Runga, Mumford and Sons.

And what do you do in your free time?
In my free time I love to go walking. I don’t really know Macau very well yet but every time I go for a big walk I always find somewhere new to see and explore. However, the place I want to find most of all is an outdoor coffee shop with wifi! I also like to go to the local spas, the service is so good.

How do you like Macau so far?
At first I wasn’t sure if I liked Macau or not, I was missing my friends in Dalian too much but now I am starting to really like it especially the mild weather. Dalian is about -10 right now, quite nippy.

What do you like about working here at MPI-Bell?
I really like my new students and the other teachers are very friendly. There are also lots of opportunities for me to become a better teacher - trainer, something that I really enjoy doing.

The 3rd MPI English Debating Competition

The third annual MPI Internal Debate Tournament saw students solve the world’s problems in seven minutes yet again. They clashed over issues ranging from environmental protection to international politics and beyond; and in doing so, they demonstrated not just their ideas and analytical skills, but showed the world how it’s done in passionate, well-articulated speeches in English. Well done MPI Debate Team!

The winners: Poppy and Linny with Michael Ford and Sons

For further details of these courses and a registration form for the Bell Teacher Campus (Macao) please visit our website:
http://bellcentre.ipm.edu.mo
Did you know....?

....that many of our trainers speak other languages? We asked some of them how they maintain their knowledge.

Which other language(s) do you speak?

John: I have studied Spanish, Latin, Chinese and a little Japanese, but I only speak Chinese (Putonghua).

Hugo: Portuguese, French, and a little Spanish.

David: I speak some French, though I am not fluent.

Did you learn it/them at school or as an adult?

John: I learned Chinese as an adult. Spanish and Latin were learned in high school and university, respectively.

David: I had to study French at school, but failed to learn anything. I did, though, manage to learn French as an adult when I went to live and work in France. I had the need and the opportunity, and really enjoyed it. However, I avoided taking French lessons with a teacher because I was afraid I would never learn it in a formal classroom situation.

Hugo: I learned Portuguese from my parents. As a kid in the United States, a friend of mine and I decided we would only speak Portuguese with each other. We were jealous of our cousins in Portugal who knew all the cool lingo and could speak so much more fluently than us. We were limited to the 'house' Portuguese we spoke with our parents.

I studied French at university, and Spanish I picked up from living in a community that had a large Hispanic population, and it's close enough to Portuguese that I can understand it without much trouble.

How do you maintain those skills in a country where it is not the first language?

John: After living in Taiwan for several years, I moved to Mexico. I thought that my Chinese was good enough that I didn't need to practice. However, after two years in Mexico, studying Spanish and not practicing English, I forgot most of the Chinese I had learned. When I returned to China a few years ago, I had to re-learn a lot. And since I had no opportunities to practice Spanish, I have forgotten most of what I had learned.

David: Actually, I am not great at maintaining a language when I don't need to use it, but I do take some time to watch French TV news and films, and sometimes read French magazines or use French-language websites.

Hugo: Portuguese is easy enough to maintain in Macau. First of all, because it is my second first language, and you don't lose your mother tongue that easily. Secondly, because I use it to communicate with family and friends, and I come across plenty of Portuguese speakers around Macau. French is a little harder to maintain, as I don't really have any 'use' for it. But I do make an effort to read in French, primarily news aggregated on Google News. The site allows you to conveniently pool news from different sources in a variety of languages. I also listen to French language radio broadcasts from time to time.

In Macau, is it hard to keep up with your second language?

John: Although the majority of people speak Cantonese in Macau, most people understand Putonghua, so it really isn't a problem. The only problem is that often when I speak in Putonghua to local people, they will answer me in Cantonese, which I don't understand at all.

David: It's not too hard, as there is a French community here, but I have to admit to not being a 'Grade A' student of languages!

Hugo: It's not too hard, as there is a French community here, but I have to admit to not being a 'Grade A' student of languages!

If you know more than one other language, do you get confused?

Were there times when you got confused?

John: When I first came to China to study Chinese, I would often accidentally use Spanish words when I was trying to speak Chinese. Years later, when I moved to Mexico, the opposite would happen—Chinese words used in Spanish sentences.

Hugo: I have always seen being multilingual as speaking one very big language. Just as one might switch between formal and informal English depending on the situation, I also switch back and forth between languages depending on who I'm speaking with and in what context. Sometimes the word that comes to mind is not in the most appropriate language, but it comes eventually. I do get confused in Macau because I can't assume anyone speaks any given language. I usually start out in English, but I might be asked to switch to Portuguese. Or I might try a few words in Putonghua, just to find out if the person is more comfortable speaking Cantonese. But that 'confusion' is all part of the fun of living in a cosmopolitan city.

David: Yes, definitely. I sometimes confuse French and Chinese (Putonghua) when I am speaking rapidly or am keen to say something, though usually only putting Chinese words into French sentences, and not the other way round.

Which is harder – remembering the vocabulary or the grammar?

John: Remembering the vocabulary of Chinese is much harder than remembering the grammar.

David: Grammar! Vocabulary is all around, if you look and notice, but grammar needs regular active use of the language.

Hugo: Probably the vocabulary. Grammar transfers well to any subject, but if I don't have the vocabulary needed to discuss a certain topic, I'll struggle to find the right words.

Which skills are hardest to maintain?

John: For Chinese the hardest skills to maintain are writing and reading, with writing being the harder of the two.

David: From easiest to hardest, I would say: Reading, listening, speaking, writing.

Hugo: Mainly prosody. Keeping the right rhythm and intonation is hard when you don't use a language every day, or if you are not speaking with native speakers. Pragmatics and choosing the right words and expressions for the context of the conversation is tricky too.

And finally?

Hugo: If you want to develop and maintain skills in a language that isn't widely spoken in your community, you have to create a need for it. Join a club, take a fun class (not a language class), or agree to only speak that language with a friend or on a certain day of the week. Just taking a language class won't necessarily help you to develop the motivation you need to keep up your skills.

David: With so many French brands in Macau - Chanel, Dior, Louis Vuitton, etc. - I can at least see some French every day, which is great for keeping my interest in the language.