

Curriculum and Professional Development Mentor - Outcome-Based Education (OBE)

Faculty of Letters, National University of Laos , Laos

Assignment title	Curriculum and Professional Development Mentor - Outcome-Based Education (OBE)	
Partner organisation	Faculty of Letters, National University of Laos	
Location	Laos	Dongdok campus, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Type of assignment	In-country Assignment	
Duration of assignment	3 months	
Proposed start date	22 February 2027	
Website	NA	
Australian organisation:	Australian Volunteer Program	

ABOUT THE PARTNER ORGANISATION

The Department of English Language is under the supervision of the Faculty of Letters and the National University of Laos. Its main roles and responsibilities include managing teaching, conducting research, and providing academic services to society. The Department develops students' English language proficiency and soft skills through various activities. It also offers master's degree programs in English for Communication and Management and Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Under the supervision of the Faculty of Letters and the National University of Laos, the Department of English Language has been making continuous efforts to organize various activities, such as seminars and workshops, to enhance teachers' capacity in teaching and ensure that they can deliver instruction more effectively. The Department also promotes student activities to encourage the use of English in situations that closely reflect real-life contexts. Therefore, the Department aims to build teachers' capacity in various areas, including technological literacy, the effective use of online tools for English language teaching, and the development of English curricula and textbooks to meet the needs of our students.

The Department of English Language is currently pursuing several strategic priorities to enhance the quality of teaching, learning, and professional development. First, the Department is committed to strengthening academic quality through the revision and improvement of both undergraduate and graduate curricula in accordance with the principles of Outcome-Based

Education (OBE). As the implementation of OBE is relatively new within our context, the teachers require further professional development and training in curriculum design, learning outcome formulation, constructive alignment, and assessment practices to ensure that teaching, learning activities, and evaluation methods effectively support the intended learning outcomes.

Second, the Department recognizes the importance of student engagement in achieving educational goals. Therefore, it actively promotes and supports a range of extracurricular and co-curricular activities, including talent shows, public speaking competitions, writing contests, and other academic events. These activities provide students with valuable opportunities to develop their language proficiency, communication skills, leadership abilities, and active participation both inside and outside the classroom.

Third, the Department places significant emphasis on classroom-based action research as a means of fostering continuous professional growth among Department members. Through systematic inquiry into teaching practices, instructors can identify challenges, implement innovative solutions, and enhance the effectiveness of their instruction.

To successfully achieve these strategic objectives, the Department seeks collaboration and support from educational experts and development partners through capacity-building initiatives, professional training, and academic cooperation.

ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

The Department of English Language seeks the support of an Australian Volunteer to strengthen its ongoing efforts in curriculum development, teacher professional development, and student engagement. While the Department has experienced local lecturers and subject specialists, access to international expertise, particularly in Outcome-Based Education (OBE), innovative teaching methodologies, educational technology, and curriculum design, remains limited. A Volunteer would provide valuable perspectives, share international best practices, and support capacity-building initiatives that complement the expertise of local staff rather than replace it.

The volunteer could contribute by conducting workshops, mentoring lecturers, assisting with curriculum and materials development, supporting classroom action research, and helping organize student-centered activities that promote authentic English language use. The Department's strengths include a committed team of lecturers, well-established undergraduate and postgraduate programs, strong student participation, and extensive experience in English language education. The Department also maintains active collaborations with national and international partners.

The volunteer would have valuable opportunities to learn about the Lao higher education system, local teaching practices, multilingual and multicultural contexts, and the unique

challenges and opportunities of English language education in Laos through close collaboration with staff and students.

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The volunteer will work alongside members of Department of English Language to support the below objectives:

Assignment objectives	Proposed activities
In-Country Phase Objective: Strengthen Curriculum Development and Outcome-Based Education (OBE)	• Review existing undergraduate and postgraduate curricula. • Conduct workshops on OBE principles and curriculum mapping • Assist in the development and revision of course syllabi and teaching materials.
In-Country Phase Objective: Enhance Teachers' Professional Capacity.	• Organize training sessions on innovative teaching methodologies. • Share best practices in technology-enhanced language teaching. • Support the use of digital and online learning tools in English language education.
In-Country Phase Objective: Promote Student Engagement and English Language Use	• Assist in organizing English-speaking activities, workshops, and competitions. • Facilitate conversation clubs and intercultural exchange activities. • Support students in developing communication, presentation, and writing skills.
In-Country Phase Objective: Support Research and Academic Development	• Provide guidance on action research. • Conduct workshops on research methodology and academic writing. • Support the dissemination of research findings through seminars and academic events.
Inclusion objective and proposed activity	
The volunteer will work alongside the partner organisation to uphold values of diversity, equity and inclusion. Inclusive approaches will aim to make everyone welcome and support equal access to activities and opportunities regardless of gender, age, disability status or background (eg religion, language, ethnicity and marginalised or vulnerable groups).	

The volunteer will work alongside members of Department of English Language to:

- Organize workshops on OBE principles, teaching methodologies and research methodology on an action research.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Education and qualifications

Essential	Desirable
• A postgraduate qualification in TESOL, English Language Teaching, Education, Curriculum Development, or a related field.	• Experience working in developing countries or cross-cultural educational settings. • Knowledge of educational technology and online teaching tools.

Knowledge and experience

Essential	Desirable
• Knowledge of contemporary English language teaching methodologies and learner-centered approaches. • Experience in curriculum development, course design, or Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and delivering professional development workshops and mentoring teachers. • Experience organizing student engagement activities, English clubs, competitions, or community outreach programs	• Ability to work effectively with diverse stakeholders in a multicultural environment. • Understanding of the educational context and challenges of English language education in Southeast Asia. • Familiarity with quality assurance processes and curriculum review in higher education.

Following the Program's values on locally led development, this Assignment Description has been developed and negotiated in good faith with the Partner Organisation. The information contained was correct at the time of acceptance of the request. However, while we take responsibility for matters under our direct control, all assignments and arrangements are subject to change. This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.

Line Manager: Head of Department of English Language who is responsible for the academic and administrative work of the Department

Working relationships: Department's Deputy-heads and teachers

Hours and days of work: Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm

In-country phase

Full time

Leave: All volunteers are entitled to 20 days leave per 12 months, unless advised otherwise. The same conditions and terms as local colleagues apply, including national holidays.

Work from home: Working from home while on an in-country phase must be in line with usual partner organisation's practices and agreed with the in-country office.

Professional indemnity insurance (*Required for all volunteers who are acting as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment*):

No, this assignment is not deemed to require professional indemnity insurance

The volunteer should consult the partner organisation about the need for professional indemnity insurance for the role prior to departure. Where required and/or considered essential to hold this insurance, please discuss this with the Volunteer Services Manager in Melbourne prior to departure.

LIFE AS A VOLUNTEER

The Australian Volunteers Program supports volunteers from preparing to go on assignment through to returning home. For a full breakdown of support provided including assignment allowances, please visit: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/>

Country context

Learn more about the host country's location by reading the country profile. We encourage candidates to research the specific location of this assignment as it will be discussed and addressed with a recruitment officer during the interview process.

For more information, please visit country links: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/laos> and <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/laos>

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted online through the Australian Volunteers Program website. If you have not already done so, you will need to register on our website prior to applying. For more information about how to apply, please visit: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/how-it-works>

We actively support and encourage people of all backgrounds and abilities to volunteer internationally and aim to make the program as accessible and inclusive as possible. The program has

a dedicated Indigenous Programs Coordinator to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander volunteers, who can be contacted at indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com. Access and inclusion plans are available for volunteers with disabilities, to ensure their assignments and living and working arrangements are made more accessible.

Personal circumstances *(This may not apply for Remote-only assignments; consider discussing with AVP team)*
Due to security, cultural, legal or visa restrictions associated with this location, we ask that applicants disclose the following:

- If they want their same-sex partner to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their partner, to whom they are not legally married, to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their child(ren) to accompany them on assignment.
- If they have a criminal conviction where a criminal conviction may be relevant to the inherent requirements of the assignment.