

TEAM

At EduMaxi Ltd we have a core team of 5 full-time staff. We contract in additional staff on a needs basis, depending on the size of the projects we are working on. Below are short bios of those working at and/or with EduMaxi Ltd.

IN-HOUSE TEAM

DOROTHY CLEARY – EDITOR AND AUTHOR

Dorothy Cleary has been involved in ESOL teaching, programme management and curriculum development for many years. For 12 years she was a Senior Academic Staff Member in the School of English Language at the Waikato Institute of Technology. She was responsible for test development, student placement, curriculum development, staff management and teaching on the EAP programme. She has been an IELTS examiner since 2001.

In 2008, she diversified into the areas of workplace English and resource development. During the past three years, she has been involved in writing, editing and academic management of a variety of international resource development projects for IELTS test preparation as well as tertiary, senior and junior high school programmes. These projects have included paper-based, blended delivery and on-line resources.

She gained a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics through Victoria University of Wellington in 2004.

HELEN OLIVER – EDITOR, PROOFREADER AND AUTHOR

Helen Oliver began her ESOL teaching career at the British Council in Hong Kong in 1978. Since completing her RSA DipTEFLA in 1979, she has had extensive experience in classroom teaching (including academic, general and foundation courses), teacher training, educational / instructional design and e-learning. In her current non-teaching role as editor for EduMaxi, she is primarily concerned with quality control for educational materials designed for international educational institutions.

For over 25 years, in Hong Kong, Japan and New Zealand, Helen taught adults, teenagers and children in a variety of classroom (tertiary, tertiary-entrance, secondary and kindergarten) and individual programmes. Other responsibilities included materials development, programme leadership and also a period as a CELTA trainer for the University of Waikato. In 2005, she transferred to the Waikato Institute of Technology, taking on a non-teaching academic role in instructional design and resource development, with additional responsibility as an editor. In addition, she was a major contributor to the development of IELTS and BULATS test preparation materials for Cambridge ESOL (for Vital English).

Helen completed her Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics) at the University of Waikato in 2000.

TONAMU NAMIOKA – EDITOR, PROOFREADER AND AUTHOR

Tonamu Namioka has been involved in ESOL teaching and instructional design for three years. During the two years he has worked as an instructional designer for EduMaxi, he has worked on several projects (classroom-based, blended and online-delivery) and has written and edited learning materials, lesson plans and practice tests. In 2008 and 2009, Tonamu was a tutor at the School of English Language at the Waikato Institute of Technology. Here he gained classroom experience teaching English to adults from a variety of social and linguistic backgrounds. He was also involved in assessment moderation.

Tonamu has a Bachelor of Social Sciences in Linguistics from the University of Waikato. Since graduating in 2005, he has also worked as a newspaper reporter in the Coromandel Peninsula and as a tutor on the Certificate of University Preparation programme at the University of Waikato.

BONNIE CHAN – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Bonnie joined EduMaxi as an Administrative Assistant in 2009 after relocating to New Zealand from Singapore. She provides general administrative support including formatting documents and making audio logs. Prior to being employed by EduMaxi, Bonnie worked for global insurance companies in Singapore. Her background was in Customer Service, Claims Administration and Policy Servicing.

Bonnie holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the National University of Singapore in 1999.

MADELIZE BEKKER – MANAGING DIRECTOR, PROJECT MANAGER

Director, Madelize Bekker, is an independent consultant and entrepreneur with an extensive background in the areas of facilitation and training, e-learning, instructional design, and project management.

She designs and facilitates internationally-recognised training courses for teacher training, team building and professional development sessions. She also works alongside subject matter experts advising on matters of design, layout and quality of courses to be delivered in a traditional classroom setting or in a blended / virtual environment.

Her international experience includes teaching at primary, secondary and tertiary level in South Africa and working as an academic staff member in Wintec's School of English Language in New Zealand, where she co-ordinated the General English program.

Madelize obtained a Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics) from Victoria University of Wellington (2009) and a Postgraduate Certificate in eEducation (2005) from The University of Waikato.

CONTRACTORS

SHERYL READ – AUTHOR

Sheryl Read has been involved in ESOL teaching at all levels: from beginners to advanced in language schools at Auckland University of Technology (13 years), Waikato Institute of Technology (6 years), the University of Waikato as well as private language schools. She has been instrumental in the design, development and presentation of materials and courses ranging from general English to study skills, EAP, English for specific purposes and exam preparation.

She has been an IELTS examiner since 2001, working at various centres in Australia and New Zealand.

In 2008, she moved out of the classroom to concentrate on resource development. She has since been engaged in the writing, review and editing of English language courses and examination preparation projects delivered in paper-based, blended and online formats.

She has a Post-graduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching from the University of Waikato (2001).

MELISSA CULLEN – AUTHOR

Melissa Cullen has been involved in English language education for nine years. She has taught English in a variety of countries in the Middle East, Europe and Asia, including China. She has been an IELTS examiner since 2008.

For the past few years, she has been involved in various projects writing and editing ELT (English Language Teaching) resources for test preparation, ESP (English for Specific Purposes), kindergarten, and junior and senior high school programmes.

Melissa obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Linguistics at University College London and a Cert. TESOL from Trinity College in 2001.

JILLIAN CANDY – AUTHOR

Jillian Candy has worked in English language education for more than twenty years.

She has taught English in Kenya, Egypt, Switzerland, England, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Jillian has also worked as a teacher trainer in Egypt, Cyprus and New Zealand. She trained teachers on certificate courses to Teach English to Speakers of Other Languages. Jillian has an RSA/Cambridge Diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language to Adults.

Jillian has a wide range of experience in the field of international education and has also worked as the International Student Coordinator at a high school on Waiheke Island in New Zealand. Her job involved marketing, organising homestay accommodation for visiting students and pastoral care for the international students who were enrolled at the high school. She has also worked as an IELTS examiner and is a TOEIC proctor. She has taught students from many different backgrounds and has worked with all ages, including teenagers and adults. She also writes articles for a journal for people who are learning English and living in New Zealand.

CHRIS KELLY – AUTHOR

Chris has been involved with ESL teaching, curriculum design and administration for nearly 20 years. He was a high school teacher before spending 4 years teaching and acting as Assistant Manager at a corporate English school in Japan. There he trained teachers and provided specialised curriculum

design for clients as well as created in-house level testing systems. Since returning to Vancouver, British Columbia in 2001, Chris has continued working with adults in ESL, first at Berlitz as a Local Instructional Supervisor then at the Canadian College of English Language, where he specialises in exam preparation. His focus is on the TOEFL iBT, and he has helped dozens of students successfully meet and exceed their exam goals. His most recent projects include creation of complete TOEFL iBT practice test exams and designing high school reading and listening activities.

Chris successfully obtained his Master's Degree in Adult Education (Adult Learning and Global Change) from the University of British Columbia in 2009.

TONY Ó BRAONÁIN – AUTHOR

Tony Ó Braonáin has been a second-language teacher throughout his career, specialising in English for the past twenty years. His extensive classroom experience informs his current main focus of materials design for general language support in the largest private tertiary institute in New Zealand. Another major area of interest is vocabulary, and he has written vocabulary workbooks from beginners to pre-tertiary level which have been adapted to online and m-learning environments in collaboration with Madelize Bekker and Vital English. To foster international students' acquisition of English and to culturally prepare them for overseas study, he keeps a weekly pre-arrival blog for students intending to study at AIS St Helens.

Tony gained a BEd from Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland and an MA in Language Teaching from Auckland University, New Zealand.

CATHY O'CONNELL – AUTHOR

Cathy O'Connell is a trained teacher who taught English in high schools for many years. She also worked for 11 years for a Hamilton newspaper, writing materials and running teacher workshops to encourage teachers and students to use the newspaper as a resource in the classroom. She then trained as an ESOL teacher and spent five years teaching ESOL in high schools. Cathy also wrote ESOL assessments for ESOL learners at Te Wananga o Aotearoa, a tertiary institution. She works for the New Zealand Qualifications Authority as a moderator of ESOL assessments in secondary and tertiary institutions and is an IELTS examiner.

She has a BA in English from Auckland University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching from the University of Waikato.

CATH MARSH - AUTHOR

Cath Marsh has been involved in ESOL education for a number of years. She has taught in a variety of settings, and managed ESOL teaching teams at private language schools in both New Zealand and China. She also has experience designing and implementing language learning courses.

Cath's lifelong passion for foreign languages and travel led her to live and work in Asia for a total of 10 years before returning home to NZ in 2009. Highlights of her overseas adventures included golf caddying in Japan, working in a 5-star hotel in Taipei, teaching Tibetan youths on an NGO project in China and preparing Vietnamese students for university study. Cath speaks Mandarin Chinese and is learning Hindi. Her long term goal is to take an active role in promoting foreign language learning in NZ.

She gained a Master of Arts in Language Teaching and Learning through the University of Auckland in 2010.

PAUL DANIELL – EDITOR AND AUTHOR

Paul Daniell has been involved in the ESL industry for more than 10 years. He began as an ESL teacher in New Zealand and went on to teach English in universities and colleges in Indonesia, Australia, Japan, and Korea. Before joining the EduMaxi team, Paul spent 2 years as an ESL teacher trainer in Korea, where he taught courses in theories of second language acquisition, methodologies for teaching English grammar, and linguistics. Paul completed a Master of Applied Linguistics from Macquarie University, Sydney, in 2007.

JANE WILSON – AUTHOR

Jane Wilson has been involved in ESOL teaching and instructional design for 15 years. For six years she taught ESOL and Preparation for IELTS at the School of English Language at the Waikato Institute of Technology. She was also an IELTS examiner for four years. For the last three years, Jane has worked as an instructional designer, developing resources that have included paper-based, blended delivery and on-line resources. She has been involved in writing and editing national and international resource development projects for test preparation, tertiary and Junior High School programmes.

Jane obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in TESOL in 1999.

HELEN BROWN – AUTHOR

Helen Brown has been involved in education for more than 20 years, firstly as an early childhood educator and more recently as an English language teacher. She became interested in teaching English language after she spent some time living in Romania and volunteering in an orphanage there. The experience of trying to do everyday tasks and not knowing the language made her realise how difficult it must be for people living in New Zealand who do not know English.

In 2004, she completed the Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Since then she has taught groups of migrants and international students from countries such as China, Cambodia, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Somalia and the Pacific Islands. She enjoys teaching her students and getting to know more about them and their cultures. Writing and creating resources for her students has been a regular part of her teaching practice.

ERINA BROWN – AUTHOR

Erina Brown is a co-recipient of the 2004 Education NZ International Excellence Award and teaches at the University of Otago Language Centre, Dunedin, New Zealand. She has previous experience in journalism, international teaching, TOEFL, iBT and TOEIC examining, bi-literacy, teacher training, curriculum development and multi-media education. As a member of ThaiTESOL, CamTESOL and TESOLANZ, she has presented at international conferences in Thailand, Cambodia and New Zealand with a focus on collaborative team teaching and project-based learning. She has written reviews for NZ TESOL Quarterly. She is currently completing a post graduate diploma in SLT at Massey University and is a co-director of AllWriteNZ – a writing, editing and proofreading company, owned and operated with her husband.

NITA HUTCHINSON - AUTHOR

Nita Hutchinson has been involved in ESOL teaching, foreign language teaching, programme management and teaching and learning management for 15 years.

In 2003, she returned to New Zealand after spending seven years studying and working in Germany and the United States. For six years she was the co-ordinator of the English Language programme at a private hotel management school in New Plymouth where she was responsible for all aspects of the programme and also worked as an IELTS examiner. Nita then moved into the role of Teaching and Learning Manager at the school. She has since been back to Germany to lecture in the English Department at Chemnitz University of Technology and is currently working independently as a lecturer, resource writer and private tutor.

She completed her Master of Arts in German and TESOL at Mississippi State University, USA in 1999.

SHARON HOLT – CHILDREN’S AUTHOR

Sharon Holt has trained and worked as a primary school teacher and journalist. She has a teaching diploma and a journalism diploma from Auckland and has worked in radio, newspapers and magazines for many years. She was the assistant editor of a parenting magazine in New Zealand for several years.

For the last 12 years, Sharon has worked as a children’s author and has had dozens of educational and trade books published. In 2007, Sharon’s book about how to write jokes was a finalist in the non-fiction category of the NZ Post Children’s Book Awards. She writes for all age groups, from preschool to high school and has two children of high school age.

ANGELA STEPHENS – EDITOR AND AUTHOR

Angela Stephens is an Instructional Designer for Learning Works (formerly the Curriculum Factory) of Wintec. Her skill set includes content writing, design of test preparation course materials, and the planning and research required to carry out these projects.

Before joining the Curriculum Factory in March 2005, Angela worked as an ESOL teacher for six years, including one year at a high school in France (1996–1997), and one year at the French University of the Pacific in New Caledonia (1998). The remainder of her English teaching experience was at private language schools in Hamilton (New Zealand), where she taught General English and IELTS test preparation courses to international students from a range of different countries, including China, Korea, Japan, Spain and Germany.

Angela holds a Master of Arts (Languages) (1999) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching (2002) from the University of Waikato in Hamilton.

YASIN KARADENIZ – GRAPHIC ARTIST AND ILLUSTRATOR

Yasin graduated from Media Design School in 2005. Based in Auckland, he has been working as a graphic designer for the past 6 years. His love of all things creative has enabled him to develop a unique design style. Everything that he sees and experiences influences his art work; this is essential to becoming a successful visual communicator.

Illustration: Yasin’s natural flair sets him apart from just being another designer. First and foremost, Yasin is an illustrator. Be it digital or ink, his work has a quirky, unique twist.

Graphic Design: Yasin has worked for several different studios as a designer, an illustrator, and

currently freelancing for a number of clients, including Marx Design, Gardyne Holt, Port Group, Penguin, Navico, Cambridge University, Unitec and New Holland Publishers.

XIUQIN ZHANG – FLASH DEVELOPER AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Xiuqin Zhang has extensive experience with web programming and graphic design. She has been involved in designing and developing business and product promotion websites for over 5 years, in both China and New Zealand.

At present, her job is focused on illustration design for various textbooks and the design and ActionScript coding of interactive Flash movies.

Xiuqin gained a BIT (Bachelor of Information Technology) from the University of Xi'an Telecommunication in 2003.