

## CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

### VIA LINGUA: CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Via Lingua training centers are committed to a common set of values and principles that ensure the provision of exciting, creative, challenging and supportive learning environments. As a result, Via Lingua trainee teachers develop the competencies they need to work effectively in a variety of education settings and have the capacity to further enhance their skills as part of a life-long learning process.

### VIA LINGUA: TRAINING CENTERS PROVIDE TRAINEE TEACHERS WITH:

- safe and productive learning environments that are inclusive and welcoming;
- a challenging, comprehensive and contemporary TEFL curriculum that is grounded in the practical application of authentic theory and research evidence;
- a course structure that allows for individualized learning experiences, rather than providing a “one size fits all” course;
- the opportunity to study in cross-cultural learning environments and to actively engage with the local community, thus cultivating the exchange of information, ideas, experiences, language and culture;
- the opportunity to enhance their life skills, the type of skills that will contribute not only to professional success but, more importantly, to the development of the whole person;
- the support they need to succeed and the carefully constructed challenges that enable them to grow both personally and professionally;



- an environment that recognizes their involvement in a life-long journey of personal and professional growth and that they bring to the program a variety of skills, talents, experiences, needs and aspirations.

### VIA LINGUA TRAINING CENTERS ENCOURAGE TRAINEE TEACHERS:

- to take personal responsibility for their professional growth and development;
- to engage in a process of self-reflection, thus facilitating a deeper personal awareness of their strengths and weaknesses and the identification of strategies that will ensure continued development;
- to work effectively either alone or as a member of a group and to appreciate their role within the peer community;
- to work effectively in cooperative and collaborative study and work situations and to value the opportunity to exchange and revise ideas;
- to utilize and add to their existing repertoire of skills and experiences;
- to develop personal confidence, as well as an appreciation of and respect for the experiences and viewpoints of people from other cultures.

**PREPARE FOR SUCCESS. BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY HERE.**

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### THE VIA LINGUA CTEFL PROGRAM Tips for Survival and Success!

At Via Lingua, we have two overriding objectives: your success and your enjoyment.

Our years of experience in the field of teacher education suggest that if you are to get the most out of your time with us, there are four key things about which you should become fully aware:

- the requirements, expectations and standards associated with the course;
- the need to take full advantage of the learning opportunities and experiences provided by the course;
- your personal strengths and weaknesses;
- your preferred learning style and how to use this to your own advantage.

We believe that the following tips may help you to have a successful and enjoyable experience on the course:

- Make sure that you are fully aware of the requirements of the course, as well as the standards required and the deadlines. Do not procrastinate since falling behind in one area of the course will have an impact on your overall progress and your ability to complete future assignments successfully;
- Take the course seriously. Remember, this is an intensive course. Because we cover a lot in a short time, the course requires you to take an active role in your own learning and encourages you to engage in self-study. It is important that you put in the effort needed so that you can ensure success;
- Be professional in both your manner and dress. Think about how you would like your students to perceive you;

- Enjoy and appreciate the emphasis Via Lingua places on the practical application of theory, i.e. teaching practice with authentic learners of English as a Foreign Language. After all, this is the reason why you are taking the course! And taking the course in Florence;

- Take every opportunity to observe both peer teachers and experienced teachers (ALC staff) and to reflect on how effectively they put into practice the theory and strategies you have explored in workshop sessions;

- Make good use of the individualized support networks provided by our staff. If you are struggling, be proactive and share your concerns with a member of staff. That is what they are there for;

- Developing the capacity to prioritize and multi-task are vital if you are to succeed on the course. At the end of each day and each week, take a look at what is coming up and make a plan to accomplish each task efficiently. Use your portfolio as the tool for planning and measuring your progress and identifying the next steps;

- Keep an open mind and enjoy the successes and challenges that you experience while taking the course. Remember that learning is a process and that each day brings something new;

- Utilize and further develop your skills, interests and previous achievements. Draw on your past experiences and use them to your advantage in the classroom;

- Become fully aware of your preferred learning style, use this to your advantage, but also be prepared to explore new ways that are challenging for you.