

INSTITUTE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING

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2026 LANGUAGE COACH COURSES

Equipping you to help others learn a new language and culture

ICCT offers fully online non-credit courses for those who work with on-field language and culture learners. Our goal is to equip coaches with practical preparation for helping new and veteran personnel to become more successful language and culture learners. Participants are not required to be online at specific hours or on specific days.

Each course consists of:

- 10 or 15 modules over 5 weeks, approximately 2 hours per module
- a variety of activities: short videos, short practical readings, forums, applications questions
- personal interaction in every module with instructor(s) and other coaches
- opportunities for individual or group Zoom meetings with instructors

Foundations of Language Coaching	Listen Up and Speak Out: Helping Learners Develop Oral Skills	Learner Assessment	Coaching Learners for Ministry Language
Cost: \$300 Prerequisite: none	Cost: \$325 Prerequisite: Foundations	Cost: \$325 Prerequisite: Foundations	Prerequisite: Foundations
2026 dates: Jan. 26 – Feb. 27 Mar. 23 – Apr. 24 June 8 – July 10 Sep. 14 – Oct. 16 Nov. 2 – Dec. 4	2026 dates: Apr. 6 – May 8 Oct. 26 – Nov. 27	2026 dates: Feb. 2 – Mar. 6 July 27 – Aug. 28	Under construction. Tentative date for first course: fall 2026, and then offered again every few weeks. Free for first few months.

FOUNDATIONS OF LANGUAGE COACHING

Are you a new coach who needs to know how to get started in helping your learners make better progress in language learning? Do you need practical ideas to keep them motivated, find learning procedures that work for them, and make better use of their time and effort?

This course helps new coaches get off to a good start and equips more experienced coaches with a deeper understanding of the language learning process and ways to assist learners in each stage of their learning journey. (10 modules, 2 per week.)

I feel so much better prepared to help learners after going through this class. It gave us a "tool-box" of readily available information and ideas we can use in a variety of situations as well as lots of resources on each topic.

Foundations Coach

PARTIAL LIST OF TOPICS

- Getting started in becoming a more effective coach: What do you need to know and do?
- Being there for your learners: Coaching with heart and mind
- The big picture: Essential principles and practices for effective learning
- Understanding language proficiency and how to guide learners toward proficiency
- Dealing with learner variables: personality, aptitude, motivation, anxiety, risk taking
- Why adults are not "big kids" but have unique learning needs
- Understanding language learning methods to find what works best for your learners
- Combining language and culture learning
- Managing the learning process
- Learning resources for coaches and learners

LISTEN UP AND SPEAK OUT: HELPING LEARNERS DEVELOP ORAL SKILLS

Do your learners find listening and speaking their new language to be especially challenging? Do they struggle to understand native speakers and find it difficult to participate in the give and take of conversation? As their coach, do you have a plan for guiding your learners in developing their listening and speaking skills? Are you able to help them go beyond speaking more quickly and easily to also saying what is culturally appropriate?

This course offers a framework and practical suggestions for coaches who want to develop or revise the oral component of their language program. It includes understanding the listening and speaking processes, evaluating the success of learners in developing their oral skills, and guiding them in using appropriate practice activities, whether they are beginning learners or well on their way toward effective oral communication. Prerequisite: Foundations of Language Coaching. (15 modules, 3 per week)

PARTIAL LIST OF TOPICS

- Understanding how adults develop listening and speaking skills
- Planning ahead: A principled approach for success
- What do coaches and learners need to know about listening comprehension and why is it so challenging?
- The right practice at the right time: Listening activities for novice, intermediate, advanced learners
- What do coaches and learners need to know about how conversation skills are learned?
- Helping learners develop culturally appropriate speech
- Equipping learners with useful conversation strategies: Activities for novice, intermediate and advanced learners to use with helpers and in the community
- What do coaches and learners need to know about telling stories and giving speeches?
- Speaking activities for facilitating novice, intermediate, advanced learners' efforts to share their faith through telling Bible stories, teaching, and preaching
- Instruction and practice in making high-quality audio recordings for a listening library
- Resources for coaches and activity documents to share with your learners

For a long time I have told my learners in language school that they also need to work with a helper. Now I can explain why they need to work with a helper and give them activities to do with the helper that are at the right level for their ability.

Listen and Speak Coach

LEARNER ASSESSMENT

I loved learning how portfolios can include different types of informal assessment and how they can help learners become more self-directed and ready for lifelong learning.

Learner Assessment Coach

You may think of assessment as something that happens only once every few months, perhaps as an oral interview that provides information about your learners' overall language ability. But do you ever feel the need for more frequent feedback about how your learners are progressing — perhaps to identify problems early on, modify learning procedures, or offer help and encouragement? Would you like to be able to determine whether learners who are able to carry on everyday conversations easily can also handle ministry responsibilities such as teaching a Bible class? And when learners come to you for advice, can you pinpoint their areas of greatest need so that they will understand where to put their efforts?

In this course we discuss major types of assessment, like oral proficiency, and we talk about language portfolios and other simple, easy-to-use assessments that can make a big difference in keeping your learners on track, improving motivation, and accelerating their daily progress. We also show you how to gather a range of assessment information that will help you make well-informed decisions about next steps for your learners. Prerequisite: Foundations of Language Coaching. (15 modules, 3 per week)

PARTIAL LIST OF TOPICS

- What is learner assessment? How can it benefit your learners?
- Understanding foundational concepts and principles of good assessment
- Determining learners' communication needs and following up by planning learning experiences to address those needs
- Designing a variety of assessment types for your learning situation
- Assessing specific language components and skills (e.g., grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, sociocultural competence)
- Using portfolios and self-assessment checklists to accelerate learning, foster motivation, and support self-direction
- Preparing learners for oral proficiency assessment
- Using assessment results to develop or revise components of your learning program
- Making sound decisions based on assessment results
- Resources for coaches and ready-made assessment documents to use with learners

This course was so practical! For some time I knew we had problems with our assessments, and now I know how to make them more fair, much less threatening, and much more useful for our learners and for our team leaders who need assessment results for making important decisions.

Learner Assessment Coach

COACHING LEARNERS FOR MINISTRY LANGUAGE

Under construction. Tentative date for first course: fall 2026, and then offered again every few weeks

This new course equips coaches with a step-by-step approach for learning worship and ministry tasks in the heart language. It includes defining goals for each proficiency level, selecting level-appropriate tasks, and implementing learning procedures for vocabulary development, listening comprehension, conversation, public speaking, and reading, as well as basic assessment procedures. Also includes "how-to" documents to use with learners.

Prerequisite: Foundations of Language Coaching. Free for coaches for the first few months after it becomes available.

REGISTRATION

You may email us with the information requested on the attached registration form (icct@wheaton.edu), or go to <https://www.wheaton.edu/icct> and click on **Language Coach Courses**. The fees on p. 1 are for non-credit participation, but these courses may also be taken for credit.