

## **Reimagining Conversations with Multilingual Students – an institutional research and development project**

Victoria Odeniyi, post-doctoral researcher, leads the institutional research and development project Reimagining Conversations with multilingual students. She is affiliated to the [Decolonising Arts Institute](#) and the [Language Centre](#) and the project is supported by the Academic Development Fund

Her professional interests are particularly focused on the intersection between language, identity and academic practices, as well as critical approaches to intercultural communication.

The Reimagining Conversations project is an opportunity to raise awareness of the educational potential of language use at UAL. In line with current moves to decolonise the university curricula and creative agenda, the project is an opportunity to examine events through a decentring and decolonised lens. From this perspective, English language interaction with international students in different teaching and learning environments does not exist independently from its communicative context or colonial past. Additionally, the focus on language provides an opportunity to increase the visibility of linguistic diversity at UAL originating from its London context and position as a global higher education institution.

The project's inter-related aims are:

- To conduct a preliminary exploration of online and face-to-face teaching practices and interaction with Students with English as an Additional Language (EAL students);
- To deepen understanding of the conditions that would optimise the intellectual and creative development of EAL students at UAL;
- To raise awareness and visibility of linguistic diversity at UAL in order to lay the groundwork for the university as a whole to be recognised as a multilingual space;
- To provoke an institutional-wide critical reflection on current practices.

During 2020/21, qualitative, ethnographically-informed fieldwork will take place across the Colleges in different subject areas including undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The project sampling strategy considers enrolment, attainment and the population of international students on courses. In line with UAL policy and guidance on Covid-19 for the academic year 2020/1, data collection will take place online and on-site. The data collection strategy will remain sensitive to the evolving context and needs of participants.

### **The project team**

Dr. Duna Sabri, Director of Academic Development Fund

Helen McAllister, Associate Dean for the International Student Experience

Victoria Odeniyi, Post-doctoral Research Fellow

There is also a project Special Interest Group made up of UAL colleagues.

**Contact for further information on the project**

If you wish to receive updates and invitations to online discussions of emerging findings from the project, please contact:

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