TESOL International Association values relationships and partnerships that connect the global TESOL community. This Affiliate Network Policy provides a broad vision and structure to facilitate TESOL International Association's relations with local, regional, and national teacher associations that share and support TESOL's mission. Specific protocols, procedures, and other details about the Affiliate Network are developed by the Affiliate Network Professional Council.

Purpose

The Affiliate Network provides a framework through which TESOL International Association can advance its strategic direction with other associations that share and support TESOL's mission. The purpose of Affiliation with TESOL International Association is to encourage the sharing of knowledge and information, and to encourage the development of cooperative events, projects, and initiatives between and among TESOL and Affiliate Associations to advance excellence in the field of English language teaching.

Goals for the Affiliate Network

The overall goal for the Affiliate Network is to promote communication and mutually beneficial collaboration that expands and enriches the global English-language educator community. TESOL International Association desires a strong and robust Affiliate Network that benefits those who participate in the Network, and can serve as a resource in advancing the association's strategic direction. This includes, but is not limited to, connecting English language educators around the world, providing venues to share knowledge and information to advance the field of English language teaching, and expanding the association's reach.

TESOL International Association and its Affiliate Associations share common goals in their work with English language educators and learners around the globe including:

- professionalism demonstrated by excellence in standards, research, and practice that improve learning outcomes,
- respect for diversity, multilingualism, multiculturalism, and individuals' language rights,
- integrity guided by ethical and transparent action,
- commitment to lifelong learning,
- advocacy for educators and learners,
- availability of quality professional learning,
- opportunities for engagement and leadership development within the field,
- the promotion of research and research-based practice, and
- the definition of standards that serve to advance the field and promote quality.

This sense of shared purpose should provide direction and parameters for participation by Affiliate Associations in the Affiliate Network.

Principles for the Affiliate Network

Respect

Each Affiliate Association is independent of TESOL International Association, with its own governance structure, mission, finances, and members. Decisions made by either TESOL International Association or one of the Affiliate Associations that impact upon the other must recognize and respect their respective governance, goals, and membership.

Significance

The overall purpose of the Affiliate Network is to raise the profile of the TESOL profession and contribute to a broader understanding of the significance of the work of TESOL professionals, locally, regionally and globally, among educational institutions, public service providers, and other entities. The collaboration between and among TESOL and Affiliate Associations should expand and enhance the work of TESOL professionals.

Flexibility

Affiliate Associations are diverse in their history, the contexts in which they operate, their representation of professionals, their contributions to the profession and to the professionals whom they serve, and the challenges they face. The relationships between and among TESOL and Affiliate Associations may vary because of this diversity.

Mutuality

The relationship between TESOL and its Affiliate Associations is to be based on mutual interest and result in mutual benefits. The relationship should include the sharing of information, resources, and expertise through collaborative activities between and among TESOL and Affiliate Associations.

Affiliate Network Professional Council

The role of the Affiliate Network Professional Council (ANPC) is to oversee, facilitate, and advise on aspects of the Affiliate Network. The specific role and responsibilities of the ANPC are outlined in its charter.

Criteria for Affiliation

Any professional association meeting specific criteria is eligible to apply for affiliation with TESOL. For the purposes of this policy, professional associations are generally defined as non-profit or non-governmental membership organizations that seek to advance a particular profession or field of study.

The items below are minimum criteria for potential Affiliate Associations. Additional criteria may be developed and evaluated annually by the ANPC.

- The professional association represents individuals or organizations committed to the effective teaching and learning of English as an additional language.
- The professional association shares and support's TESOL's mission and values.
- The professional association is not in violation of any applicable laws in its state/province, country, or region.

The ANPC reviews and evaluates the applications and accompanying documentation for potential affiliates to see if the criteria for membership in the Affiliate Network has been met. If the minimum criteria established above, as well as any criteria set by the ANPC, has been satisfied, the ANPC submits its recommendation for approval to the Executive Director. If the ANPC has questions about the application, the application will be referred to the Executive Director (ED) for consideration. The ED may accept or reject an application as is in the best interest of the Association.

The applicant may request reconsideration within sixty (60) days or that association may re-apply once it can satisfy all of the affiliation criteria.

TESOL also maintains the right to approve the name an Affiliate Association will use as part of the Affiliate Network.

Features and Benefits of Affiliation

TESOL International Association will provide several features and benefits in order to support and strengthen the Affiliate Network. These will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Networking and collaboration opportunities between and among TESOL and Affiliated Associations both online and at the annual TESOL International Convention
- Means to share knowledge and information for the mutual benefit of TESOL and Affiliated Associations to advance the field of English language teaching
- Opportunities for grants and other resources to support activities of Affiliate Associations

The ANPC will collaborate with staff to regularly review and update these features and benefits for Affiliate Associations.

TESOL and its Affiliate Associations may also pursue individual collaborative projects beyond the scope of the activities outlined above. This may include such things as unique events or other professional

development opportunities, research projects, or advocacy initiatives. The ANPC may serve as an advisory body on these projects as well.

Maintenance of Affiliation

In order to maintain its status in the Affiliate Network, each Affiliate Association will meet the following minimum criteria:

- Continue to meet all affiliation criteria as outlined above.
- Sign an annual affiliation agreement to include specific annual commitments.
- Submit an annual report with current information about its leadership, membership, and activities.
- Pay an annual affiliation fee as determined by the dues structure approved by the TESOL Board of Directors.
- Have an identified Liaison responsible for communicating important information between TESOL and the Affiliate Association, particularly names and contact information of newly elected leaders.

Additional criteria may be developed and evaluated annually by the ANPC.

Any Affiliate Association failing to meet the maintenance criteria outlined above, or conducts actions that conflict with TESOL's mission or values, will lose it status within the Affiliate Network.

Approved by the Board of Directors
20 October 2017
Updated October 2018