

# TESOL International Association Affiliate Relations Proposal

The following proposal outlines components of a revised policy that would provide vision and structure for TESOL International Association's relations with affiliate English language teacher associations. It also outlines procedures that could be followed to put this policy into practice. This proposal is accompanied by a proposed policy Charter for a new entity, the Affiliate Network Professional Council (ANPC). As outlined in section 5.2, the ANPC would support the Association in developing and maintaining procedures for implementing the policy.

## 1 RATIONALE

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TESOL International Association has more than 100 Affiliates around the globe. The aim of the TESOL-Affiliate relationship is to promote communication and mutually beneficial collaboration that expands and enriches the global English-language educator community. This is achieved through a consideration of TESOL's Mission, Vision, and strategic goals.

## 2 TOUCHSTONES FOR THE TESOL-AFFILIATE RELATIONSHIP

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### **Respect**

Each TESOL Affiliate is an independent entity, as is TESOL International Association, with its own governance structures, missions and members. Decisions made by either TESOL International Association or one of its Affiliates that impact upon the other must recognize and respect their respective constitutions, goals and membership.

### **Significance**

The TESOL-Affiliate relationship seeks 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 relationship also seeks to expand and enhance the work of TESOL professionals.

### **Flexibility**

TESOL Affiliates 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 ways in which the TESOL-Affiliate relationship manifests itself vary as a consequence of this diversity.

### **Mutuality**

The relationship between TESOL and its Affiliates 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 TESOL International Association and individual and multiple Affiliate associations.

## **3 GOALS OF THE TESOL-AFFILIATE RELATIONSHIP**

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TESOL International Association and its Affiliates share common goals in their work with English-language professionals 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 professionals 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 activities pursued jointly by TESOL International Association and its Affiliates.

## **4 INTENDED OUTCOMES OF THE TESOL-AFFILIATE RELATIONSHIP**

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The TESOL-Affiliate relationship provides avenues to pursue such shared goals and promote mutually beneficial collaborations. Intended outcomes of the relationship include, but are not restricted to the following:

### **4.1 ADVOCACY**

- Developing of advocacy skills through participation in TESOL International Association and Affiliate advocacy activities
- Providing a voice for TESOL International Association and Affiliates at the local, regional and global levels, representing educators from diverse geographic, national, and cultural backgrounds, as well as from diverse educational contexts and experiences

### **4.2 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT**

- Gaining global, regional, and national audiences to give and receive professional learning opportunities through TESOL International Association and Affiliates

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- Broadening the relevancy of TESOL International Association programming (conferences, publications, research, professional development activities, online services, advocacy, etc.) for English-language teaching (ELT) educators around the world
- Sharing TESOL International Association and Affiliate expertise and resources, including awards, conferences and other professional development opportunities
- Developing of leadership skills within the profession through participation in TESOL International Association and Affiliate opportunities

### 4.3 RESEARCH

- Pursuing collaborative, parallel or complementary research where Affiliates and TESOL work together to investigate research questions manifested in international, national, regional and local contexts
- Gaining insights into where research needs inform research agendas
- Gaining access and contributing to TESOL International Association and Affiliate publications and research

### 4.4 STANDARDS

- Broadening the relevancy and reach of professional Standards in ELT contexts around the world
- Accessing TESOL International Association and Affiliate expertise and resources in the development and implementation of TESOL Standards
- Providing a shared language of reference to frame research and practice across diverse contexts in the ELT field

## 5 THE PARTNERSHIP RELATION

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### 5.1 RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The structure of a partnership between TESOL International Association and an Affiliate should reflect the touchstones of the relationship outlined in Section 2 of this policy document – respect, significance, flexibility and mutuality. In addition, the structure should include and build on clear communication channels within the relationship, and draw on the affordances of an expanded global English-language educator community.

In order to support the goals and outcomes of the Affiliate Relations Policy, TESOL International Association and its Affiliates shall assume certain core responsibilities:

The core responsibilities for TESOL International Association shall include providing staff support, facilitating communication and professional networking both online and during the annual convention, and the provision of financial resources for specific programs and projects as they arise.

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Likely procedures to be adopted include:

- TESOL International Association allocates staff support to facilitate relations between TESOL and its Affiliates through a Staff partner and a Board liaison to the Affiliate Network Professional Council (see Section 5.2.1)
- TESOL provides a dedicated online space in which Affiliate leaders can communicate and share challenges, solutions, ideas and resources between and among themselves, as well as among leaders and members of other entities within TESOL
- TESOL provides an online space in which Affiliate members can communicate with each other, including group spaces for TESOL educators across Affiliates who share interests
- TESOL provides opportunities at its annual convention for Affiliate leaders to meet, network and conduct procedural business pertaining to the maintenance of the TESOL Affiliate relationships
- TESOL International Association offers the following resources which Affiliates may seek to draw upon:
  - Funding for conference speakers
  - Complimentary and discounted individual TESOL memberships
  - Limited complimentary registration for TESOL events, such as the Advocacy Summit and the TESOL International Convention (the Staff partner will advise the available resources each year)
  - Worldwide promotion of Affiliate events through a monthly conference calendar
  - Contact information of TESOL International Association members worldwide
  - In-person and online networking opportunities among Affiliates and TESOL educators around the world, through Conventions, virtual meetings and online meeting spaces
  - A biannual Affiliate newsletter
  - Leadership-oriented sessions at the TESOL International Convention

The core responsibilities for Affiliates relate to the sharing of information about their Association and context, the contribution of financial resources in the form of dues to support the Affiliate Network, and facilitating communication and professional networking between their members, members of TESOL International Association and the wider Affiliate Network.

Likely procedures to be adopted in this regard include:

- Affiliates sign an agreement with TESOL annually
- Affiliates submit an annual report
- Affiliates pay annual dues. Dues are waived for Affiliates located in countries with a GNI <\$3,000. Complimentary TESOL memberships are available annually to these Affiliates for three members of their governing body.
- Affiliates post the “An Affiliate of TESOL International Association” logo on their website
- Affiliates publicize TESOL International Association’s events and publications

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- Affiliates provide TESOL with space for one ad in the Affiliate’s conference program book
- Affiliates send a representative to the Affiliate Assembly at the annual TESOL convention at least once every two years
- Affiliates provide feedback on strategic initiatives of TESOL International Association
- Affiliates facilitate data or information collection for specific TESOL International Association projects
- Affiliates provide access to Affiliate membership contacts to promote TESOL International Association, membership, events, and publications
- Affiliates provide access to regional expertise and advice on matters of research, advocacy, standards and professional development
- Affiliates provide logistical support for regional events being organized or co-organized with TESOL International Association
- Affiliates, upon request, provide TESOL International Association a complimentary exhibit booth, conference registration, and exhibitor presentation at their conference

In addition, TESOL International Association and any of its Affiliates may pursue collaborative projects beyond the ‘core’ relationship. These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sharing resources and expertise between TESOL and individual and/or multiple affiliate associations for specific projects, for example, in advocacy or standards (see 4.1 and 4.4)
- Collaborative events between TESOL and an Affiliate, or Affiliates, within a region which correspond to shared goals for professional development (see 4.2)
- Facilitating global, regional or national studies, pursuant to joint research and advocacy goals (see 4.3)

TESOL and/or its Affiliates wishing to pursue a collaborative project may initiate the endeavor through the Affiliate Network Professional Council (see 5.2.1), which will serve as a clearing house and communicative body for such initiatives.

## 5.2 GOVERNANCE OF THE TESOL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION/AFFILIATE RELATIONS

### 5.2.1 The Affiliate Network Professional Council

The Affiliate Network Professional Council (ANPC) represents both TESOL International Association and its Affiliates. It serves to envision and foster a relationship between TESOL International Association and Affiliates that embodies the touchstones and goals of the Affiliate Relation Policy. It establishes and manages the core responsibilities of the TESOL-Affiliate relationship and also encourages and facilitates projects of collaboration between or among participating partners (see 5.1). Through its procedure manual it will establish the process for becoming an Affiliate.

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### 5.2.2 Criteria for becoming an Affiliate of TESOL International Association

Any association of teachers of English to speakers of other languages that supports the mission of TESOL may become an Affiliate under the following conditions:

- The association represents a distinct geographical membership region and/or distinct professional constituency.
- At least three members of the executive committee or other governing board are members of TESOL; the president must be a TESOL member.
- It has regularly scheduled communication, such as a newsletter, or e-list, to disseminate and exchange information among its members.
- It has a constitution providing for continuity of administration of the group, such as through overlapping terms for members of the governing board, rotation of officers, or a permanent executive director/secretary.
- It holds at least one annual meeting of its general membership and at least one additional meeting of its governing body each year.
- It represents at least fifty (50) individual or institutional members in good standing.
- It is not in violation of any applicable laws in its state, province, or country.

### 5.2.3 Source and management of financial resources

The Affiliate relation program is funded in part by annual affiliate dues as determined by the Finance Committee in consultation with the ANPC and subsidized by revenue from other TESOL initiatives.

Annually, the Affiliate Network Professional Council and the TESOL staff liaison may submit budget requests to TESOL's Finance Director. Requests will be considered by the TESOL Executive Director/Finance Director and the TESOL Finance Committee for inclusion in the final budget proposal.

### 5.2.4 Accountability

The Staff Liaison responsible for Affiliate relations verifies Affiliate maintenance of the criteria for being an Affiliate (see 5.2.2) and their core responsibilities for affiliation as outlined in 5.1. The Staff Partner offers any Affiliate not meeting those responsibilities an opportunity to respond and redress any concerns. If the Affiliate is unable to meet its core responsibilities, the Staff Liaison will refer the situation to the Executive Committee for advice. The Executive Committee has the power to dissolve an affiliation.