

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE PROFESSORS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

AUTHORS

Heather Willis Allen
Eduardo Negueruela–Azarola

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KEY TERMS

Professional Development:

It refers to ongoing training and education that language teachers participate in to become more successful in their profession

WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THIS SECONDARY RESEARCH?

What are some effective forms of professional development for foreign language teachers?

WHAT EVIDENCE IS SUMMARISED?

A total number of **96**

publications (between 1997 to 2008) were analysed in this study

WHAT DOES IT FIND?

- One common way of professional development for foreign language teachers is graduate coursework but it may not be the most effective
- Assigning supervisory and teaching tasks to teacher assistants can help them with their professional development
- Team teaching might come across as a time-consuming activity. However, it can develop teachers' professional identity and increase students' satisfaction due to the variety in teaching styles
- Reflective activities, such as teaching and learning logs can help early-career teachers to overcome teaching-related barriers, including anxiety
- The use of technology can contribute significantly to professional development as it can increase the level of interaction among teachers
- Asynchronous discussion can offer great benefits to teachers because it increases teachers' understanding of pedagogical topics

HOW CAN I USE THE FINDINGS IN MY TEACHING?

- Teachers can utilise social media as a form of teaching logs to share their reflections about their own teaching experiences, and create a network with other teachers around the world to discuss teaching-related challenges
- Teacher training institutions should design collaborative tasks for teachers, such as team teaching, so that teachers can experience professional growth through peer support
- Giving responsibilities to early-career teachers, or teacher assistants, can accelerate the formation of their professional identity