

CURRICULUM VITAE



Colleen Lynne du Plessis
Lecturer: Department of English,
University of the Free State

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1 Personal particulars

Name Colleen Lynne du Plessis
Date of birth 1 May 1963
Place of birth Virginia, South Africa
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2 Educational background

2.1 *School qualifications*

1980 Matriculated at Eunice High School, Bloemfontein (A-aggregate)

2.2 *University qualifications*

1983 BA, University of the Orange Free State (UOFS) (*cum laude*)
1984 BA Hons, UOFS (*cum laude*)
2012 MA, University of the Free State (UFS) (*cum laude*): The design, refinement and reception of a test of academic literacy for postgraduate students
2017 PhD, University of the Free State: Developing a theoretical rationale for the attainment of greater equivalence of standard in the Grade 12 Home Language exit-level examinations

3 Full-time/part-time or contract

2010-2012 Contract research assistant and contract junior lecturer, Department of English (UFS)
2013 Appointed as lecturer, Department of English (UFS) (full-time)

4 Areas of assigned teaching responsibility

Applied language studies
Language teaching/Language assessment/Academic literacy

5 Number of theses/dissertations/research reports supervised

2012 Umalusi report on the standard of the Grade 12 HL examination papers (co-author)
2012-2014 MA dissertation: M. Papashane (UFS). Academic literacy beyond the first year: The case of senior undergraduate students of education (co-supervisor)
2016-2018 MA dissertation: S. Steyn (UFS). A theoretical justification for the design and refinement of a Test of Advanced Language Ability (TALA) (co-supervisor)
2016- MA dissertation: P. Mhlongo (UFS). Language learning beliefs and motivation of pre-service educators in developing mastery in English (supervisor)
2017- PhD thesis: M. Mbango (UFS). A child-rights based approach to language teaching: An aid to inclusive education and responsible learning in Namibia (co-supervisor)

- 2017- PhD thesis: L. Drennan (UFS). Defensibility and accountability: developing a theoretically justifiable academic writing intervention for Sociology students at tertiary level(co-supervisor)
- 2018- PhD thesis: M. Gouws (UFS) Academic literacy development support to Natural and Agricultural Sciences students: An impact evaluation

6 Teaching experience

ELE132	Teaching English in the Intermediate Phase
ENGS1608	English Skills
MFZ142	English Language Practice
EPE112	English for Professional Purposes
EBE122	Business English
ENGS1504	Language for the professions
ENGE1608	English Skills for Education

7 Other work experience

- 1984 Academic assistant, Department of Communication Science, UOFS
- 1985-1987 Radio and television news reporter, SABC, Bloemfontein (responsible for covering news events and writing reports for local and national news bulletins; conducting interviews for actuality programmes)
- 1988 Assisted the Human Sciences Research Council with socio-cultural surveys in the Durban area
- 1989-1990 Research assistant: Nama/English Dictionary Project, University of Namibia, Windhoek (responsible for entering all data on computer)
- 1990-1992 Part-time English tutor: Urban Foundation project, Ikageng Church and Credence Primary School, Mangaung (responsible for presenting innovative English classes to school pupils)
- 1992-1993 Representative for the Open Learning Systems Education Trust (OLSET) to assist with the implementation of the English-in-Action Pilot Study (Mangaung/Heidedal) (responsible for training teachers and visiting schools to demonstrate the OLSET programme: the communication of educational programmes via radio broadcasts as a means of supplementing the English curriculum in township and farm schools)
- 1992-2003 Language practitioner and partner at Prolingua, a language agency providing a translation and editing service
- 1994-1999 Interpreter at the Free State Legislature (responsible for interpreting at sittings of the Legislature and meetings of portfolio committees)
- 2000 Learning facilitator at the Bloemfontein Christian School (responsible for the Grade 3-5 learning centre, supervising student progress, teaching basic concepts and continuous assessment)
- 2001-2011 Contract interpreter at the University of the Free State (UFS) (responsible for interpreting at management meetings, inaugural

addresses and other faculty-related activities)
Freelance language practitioner (translations, proofreading and editing)

2008-2009 Learning facilitator at the Bloemfontein Christian School
(responsible for senior learning centre: English and Life Orientation)

2010-2011 Contract research assistant in the Department of English, UFS
(responsible for assisting colleagues in the department with research activities)
Contract junior lecturer in the Department of English, UFS
(responsible for presenting English Skills (ENG 104) and the administration of the Test of Academic Literacy for Postgraduate Students (TALPS), including the processing and statistical analyses of results)

8 Professional membership

2015– South African Association for Language Teaching (SAALT)

9 Papers delivered

2012 Perceptions and performance in a test of academic literacy for postgraduate students (LSSA/SAALA/SAALT conference on Diversity and Complexity, Free State University, 25-29 June 2013)

2013 Dealing with disparities in the Grade 12 South African language assessment dispensation (Tel Aviv University Language in Education Policy Forum, Tel Aviv University, 7 May 2013)

2013 Issues of validity in the Grade 12 English Home Language examination papers (2008-2012) (LSSA/SAALA/SAALT conference on Language: policy, planning, practice and principles, Stellenbosch University, 1-4 July 2013)

2014 The South African Grade 12 Home Language assessment dispensation (Durban University of Technology symposium, 6 March 2014)

2015 Testing to teach: Ensuring validity in ESL instruction (LSSA/SAALA/SAALT conference, North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus 24-26 June)

2016 Realising inclusive and equitable quality education in South Africa – contributions and obstacles in language in education (UN symposium on language and the sustainable development goals, New York 21-22 April)

2016 Die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Seniorsertifikaateksamen in Afrikaans Huistaal as geldige en betroubare maatstaf van taalvermoë (international colloquium on Afrikaans, Gent University, 27-28 October)

2017 What happens to language assessment at school, and what does that mean for levels of academic literacy of prospective university

students? (Conference of the Language Association of South Africa, Rhodes University, 25-29 June 2017)

- 2018 Task differentiation as diversity accommodation in an English Second Language (ESL) "reading" programme for Education students (Workshop on managing language diversity in educational institutions: Language preservation and empowerment within multilingual contexts, South Africa/Wallonia Joint Scientific and Technological Cooperation; Clarens, RSA)
- 2018 Massification and diversification in tertiary language education: determining the parameters for a successful outcome (International symposium on language diversity management in higher education, Namur, Belgium; NRF bilateral research program with FNRS and University of Namur, Wallonia)

10 Publications (accredited)

- 2011 Le, Phuong L., Du Plessis, C.L. & Weideman, A. 2011. Test and context: The use of the Test of Academic Literacy Levels (TALL) at a tertiary institution in Việt Nam. *SAALT Journal for Language Teaching*, 45(2): 115-131.
- 2012 Du Plessis, C. 2012. Facing up to literacy: Perceptions and performance in a test of academic literacy for postgraduate students. *SAALT Journal for Language Teaching*, 46(2): 123-139.
- 2014 Du Plessis, C. 2014. Issues of validity and generalisability in the Grade 12 English Home Language examination. *Per Linguam*, 30(2): 1-19. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5785/30-2-602>.
- 2014 Du Plessis, C. & Weideman, A. 2014. Writing as construct in the Grade 12 Home Language curriculum and examination. *SAALT Journal for Language Teaching*, 48(2): 127-147. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jlt.v48i2.6>.
- 2015 Du Plessis, C. & Du Plessis, L.T. (2015). Dealing with disparities: The teaching and assessment of official languages at first language level in the grade 12 school-leaving phase in South Africa. *Language, Culture and Curriculum*, 28(3):209-225. DOI:10.1080/07908318.2015.1083999.
- 2016 Du Plessis, C. 2016. Inferences from the Test of Academic Literacy for Postgraduate Students (TALPS). *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*, 34(1): 1-16. DOI: 10.2989/16073614.2015.1108206.
- 2016 Du Plessis, C., Steyn, S. & Weideman, A. 2016. Die assessering van huistale in die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Senior Sertifikaat eksamen – die strewe na regverdigheid en groter geloofwaardigheid. *LitNet Akademies*, 13(1): 425-443. ISSN 1995-5928 425-443
- 2017 Weideman, A., Du Plessis, C. & Steyn, S. 2017. Diversity, variation and fairness: Equivalence in national level language assessments. *Literator*, 38(1), a1319. <https://doi.org/10.4102/lit.v38i1.1319>

2019 Du Plessis, C. & Els, C. (forthcoming). Informative assessment: A supportive tool for systemic validity in language education. (Accepted for publication in *South African Journal of Higher Education*)

11 Other research activities

2013 Collaboration with ICELDA on the Umalusi Grade 12 Home Language initiative aimed at achieving greater equivalence of construct and standard

2017 Collaboration with Universities South Africa on a project to determine the standard of the Grade 12 English FAL examination papers

2018 Collaboration with Centre for Teaching and Learning on the evaluation of a programme to develop academic literacy skills of students

2018 Collaboration with University of Namur on managing language diversity in educational institutions. Joint Scientific and Technological Cooperation South Africa/Wallonia