

**THE TESOL INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
APPLICATION FOR PRIORITY RESEARCH GRANT 2005-06**

Title of project	Teachers' Beliefs & Practices about the Effective Integration of Grammar Instruction
Type of grant application:	Priority Research Grant
Topic of TIRF Priority:	Integration of grammar instruction into adult ESL/EFL curricula approaches and their effectiveness
Names, affiliations and contact details of applicants	Professor Anne Burns, Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University Dr. Simon Borg Senior Lecturer in TESOL School of Education University of Leeds



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PROJECT SUMMARY

Within a framework of teacher cognition research, this project investigates teachers' beliefs and practices vis-à-vis the effective integration of grammar instruction in the adult TESOL classroom. Key aims here are to understand teachers' views about the effective integration of grammar teaching, the strategies they use to achieve such effectiveness, and their rationales for doing so. A mixed methods study will be adopted to address these aims: detailed qualitative studies of the practices and beliefs of four teachers in diverse ESOL and EFL contexts around the world will be compiled, and a survey of the beliefs about integrated grammar teaching of a sample of teachers of English in a number of other countries will be conducted. Collectively, these data will shed light on what teachers do to integrate grammar effectively into their work and the thinking (including evidence they cite in relation to learning outcomes or other criteria) behind their instructional practices. Existing research on teachers'

beliefs and practices in teaching grammar more generally demonstrates that these are shaped by a range of interacting psychological, social, and instructional and institutional factors which impinge on teachers. It is envisaged that the notions of effectiveness in integrating grammar instruction which emerge in this study will be similarly complex and a key outcome of the study will be a greater understanding of this complexity.