

Laura Jean McNabb

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Academic Summary

English language educator with over 20 years of international higher education experience in EAP, communication, and interdisciplinary teaching. Known for curriculum innovation, student-centred learning, and academic leadership. Committed to fostering global perspectives and inquiry-based learning in diverse, transnational classrooms.

Education

MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL

University of Leicester, UK, 2004

Thesis: Error Correction – Some implications for the Ethiopian ELT context

MA in Religious Education

Canadian Theological Seminary, Canada, 1996

Thesis: course-based

BA in English

Augustana University (University of Alberta), Canada, 1993

Academic Appointments / Teaching Experience

Senior Lecturer

Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Suzhou, 2021-present

- Module leader – Introduction to Sustainability. Designed and proposed this course to the department and Spring 2025 is its first iteration.
- Teach intercultural communication and EAP courses. Develop inquiry-based learning and small-group project activities for seminar classes. Encourage students to explore and question concepts and materials.

Senior Lecturer

Dongbei University of Finance and Economics – Surrey Institute, Dalian, 2016-2021

- Module leader – EAP Skills 1 & 2. Redesigned the course to deliver more project-based learning and shift away from traditional test-based teaching and learning.
 - 2020: Online Learning Project – small groups using inquiry-based learning around the topic of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- 2019: Integrated Learning Project – small group based, connected with Operations Management and Tourism Management courses – used the topic of Plastic Waste
- 2018: Integrated Learning Project – individually based, connected to business department’s Organizational Behavior course

Teaching Faculty

Higher Colleges of Technology, Dubai, 2004-2016

- Taught academic, professional, and media communication courses across General Studies, Applied Communications, and Foundations departments. Led over 20 undergraduate-level courses including Academic Writing, Spoken English, Journalism, Corporate Communication, Media Relations, and Public Relations.

- **Course Leadership:** Designed curricula, developed assessments, managed course delivery, and coordinated teaching teams while liaising with senior management.
- **Innovative Teaching:** Integrated blended learning using Blackboard Learn, facilitated small-group projects, and employed creative formats like Pecha Kucha and feature article writing.
- **Student Development:** Guided students on individual projects, creative writing, and journalistic contributions to college media.
- **Foundations Support:** Led small group teams to improve foundational English skills, including writing and speaking proficiency aligned with IELTS standards.

Certifications & Training

- Leadership Development Extension Certificate, 2024, Mount Royal University, Canada
- 120-Hour Advanced TESOL Certificate, on TESOL, Coventry House, Canada, 2022
- Curriculum Development and Instructional Design Certificate, 2020, Mount Royal University, Canada
- Cultural Mapping and Navigation Accreditation, 2013, KnowledgeWorkx, United Arab Emirates
- Certified Professional Co-active Coach, 2009, Coaches Training Institute, United States

Conference Presentations

- “Teacher-created podcasts for multimodality EAP learning,” UNNC EAP/ESP Conference, Ningbo, 2023
- “Teacher-created podcasts for multimodality EAP learning,” XJTLU Annual Learning and Teaching Colloquium, Suzhou, 2023
- “Increasing student linguistic capital in the undergraduate university classroom,” Joint SoL-AoFE (School of Languages – Academy of Further Education) Research and Practice Symposium, Suzhou, 2022
- “Growing the linguistic capital of students in transnational education programs,” Sociolinguistics Symposium 23, Hong Kong, 2021
- “Building Student Academic Linguistic Capital in a Glocal Society,” CEAPA-BALEAP International Conference, Suzhou, 2021

- “Student worldviews in tertiary transnational education programs,” Multicultural Japan: Research and Methodologies for Teaching Language and Culture Symposium, Osaka, 2019
- “Student worldviews in transnational education programs,” NELTA Conference, Kathmandu, 2019
- “Worldviews and project-based learning,” IATEFL Conference, Liverpool, 2019
- “Student worldviews,” China TESOL Assembly, Shanghai, 2018

Service & Leadership

- Member, Sustainability Council, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, 2023-present
- Co-organizer, Sustainability Squad, 2025
- Co-organizer, Culture Cafe, 2024
- Co-creator, EAP teaching podcast for in-house use, 2023

Community Engagement

- local volunteer, Girl Gone International, Suzhou, 2023-present (organize events for the community like Day of Wellness, yoga, morning walks, galas, etc.)
- volunteer, Habitat for Humanity, 2010 (Cameroon), 2011 (Malawi), 2017 (Honduras)
- volunteer teacher, VSO, 2002-2004, Ethiopia

Skills

LMS: Moodle, Blackboard

Digital Tools: Gen AI LLMs, Turnitin, Padlet, Canva, Lumi

Languages: Fluent in English; Basic in French, Mandarin