

London Waldorf Teacher Training Seminar Course Description

The teacher training seminar aims to provide a practical, artistic and theoretical grounding in Steiner Waldorf education that is essential for anyone who wishes to teach in a Waldorf school.

There are three main strands to the course; interwoven with the aim of sounding keynotes that will resonate on through the teacher's development:

Child Development: in-depth study of the development of human consciousness in the individual; and how its parallel in the history of humankind is reflected in the curriculum, to support the child's development at each stage.

In the first year, the focus is to develop a sound understanding of the phases of development experienced through childhood to adulthood and, in the second year, a detailed understanding of the period from 6 to 18 years.

Study of child development is supported by courses in the Evolution of Consciousness through art and literature and, in the second year, in classroom methodology and practice. All courses employ a creative approach to developing students' practical, artistic and thinking skills for education.

Study: study of Steiner's education and other lectures support and deepen understanding of Anthroposophy as the basis of Steiner Waldorf education and aim to develop the skill of thinking as an art of education. Essential texts are 'The Education of the Child' in the first year, with 'The Foundations of Human Experience' usually taken in the second year and these have been supplemented at various times by other lecture cycles as well as single lectures and passages from other books.

The Festivals of the year are also an important part of the study curriculum, taken with practical and artistic workshops on the cultural and age appropriate celebration of festivals. In this way study is linked with sessions on the evolution of consciousness, religion, arts, crafts and handwork, poetry recitation, creative writing, movement etc.

Artistic Development (teacher development): Steiner Waldorf teachers are artists. Rudolf Steiner identified the three studies of modelling, music and speech as essential for developing the skills and qualities most needed in the classroom. Music is taken in the form of choral singing, music theory and recorder playing; speech in recitation, storytelling and speech and drama sessions; modelling in clay work. These link with the regular sessions in eurythmy, painting, drawing and handwork as well as various other artistic activities taken from time to time.

These three strands continue throughout the course with a change of emphasis from the first to the second year so that students gain a good balance of theory and practical knowledge along with their continuing personal development.

First Year course content:

★ Comprehensive overview of Human Development from Anthroposophical point of view

- The Education of the Child and other texts by Rudolf Steiner and other authors

★ Study of the Evolution of Consciousness through:

- Literature
- Music
- Art
- Maths
- Science
- Festivals and the Cycle of the Year

★ Personal development and development of necessary skills including:

- Painting
- Singing
- Recorder playing
- Clay modelling
- Drawing
- Geometry
- Eurythmy
- Bothmer Gymnastics
- Games
- Creative Writing
- Maths
- Drama
- Speech
- Storytelling
- Handwork
- Other crafts

★ Study and practice of Goethean Observation through:

- Study
- Writing
- Drawing
- Modelling

★ Other workshops and conferences

★ Summer School: 8 days intensive. Content may include:

- Drama
- History of Drama
- Storytelling
- Painting or Modelling
- History of Art
- Student presentations

Students' work:

★ Observation in Waldorf classrooms (to be arranged in consultation with tutors)

★ Exhibitions, presentations and bookwork that demonstrate an appropriate level of understanding of what has been taught as well as development of skills.

Second Year course content:

★ Overview of a Waldorf curriculum from Kindergarten to Class 12 in relation to the various stages of development and the evolution of consciousness:

- Kindergarten
- History
- English
- Botany
- Zoology
- Maths
- Physics
- Art History
- Crafts
- Painting
- Music
- Recorder playing
- Clay modelling
- Drawing
- Geometry
- Bothmer and Games
- Drama
- Storytelling

★ Study of Anthroposophical texts:

- Foundations of Human Experience
- Practical Advice to Teachers
- Discussions with Teachers
- Other selected texts

★ Study and practice of Goethean Observation through:

- Study
- Writing
- Drawing
- Modelling
- Movement

★ Continued personal development and development of necessary skills:

- Painting
- Singing
- Recorder playing
- Clay modelling
- Drawing
- Geometry
- Eurythmy
- Bothmer Gymnastics
- Drama
- Writing
- Speech
- Games

★ Introduction to the practicalities of teaching and working in a school, including:

- Finding resources and planning lessons.
- Interpreting the curriculum in a creative and responsible way.

- Working with parents, colleagues, advisors and others
- Assessment, record-keeping and report writing.

★ Other workshops and conferences

Students' work:

- ★ Teaching practice in Waldorf schools, to be arranged in consultation with tutors, followed up with lesson planning, reviews and reports.
- ★ Exhibitions, presentations, reports and bookwork that demonstrate what the student has learned and is able to do.
- ★ An independent personal project on a theme connected with Waldorf education, presented at the beginning of the summer term.
- ★ Experience of developing and presenting a play.