

Curriculum Vitae Helen Forsyth

Language competence

English C2
German C2
Italian C2
French B1
Dutch A2

Education and qualifications

- **PhD in General Pedagogy, Social Pedagogy, General Didactics and Disciplinary Didactics**, Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, awarded 13th December 2022

Thesis title: *Developmental Stages of Third Language Acquisition: a focus on early-stage receptive processing in multilingual learners* (supervisor: Prof. aggreg. Martina Irsara)

- **Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL)**, University of Sunderland, Sunderland, United Kingdom, awarded March 2012
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Translation (German, Italian, Dutch)**, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom, awarded March 1998
- **Bachelor of Arts in German Language and Literature with subsidiary Italian**, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom, awarded June 1995

Present appointment

Research Assistant at Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy for project 'Centre for Academic Writing: materials and analysis tools development for academic writing at multilingual universities' (see **Teaching and research experience** section).

Teaching and research experience

From / to	Job title	Name of academic Institution	Academic level	Responsibilities
Sept. 2024-	Research Assistant	Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	tertiary education	collecting academic writing data, using corpus linguistics methodology, investigating applications of AI for aiding writing, developing multimodal student writing guidelines, elaborating questionnaires for academic staff and coordinating with writing instructors at the Centre for Academic Writing

Oct. 2024-	Lecturer: English Language Teaching-L3: Approaches, syllabuses, lesson plans, assessment and materials in TEYL. Applications (Lab.)	Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	tertiary education	instructing students in didactic laboratory (Master in Primary Education: Teaching English to Young Learners module), exam commission
Sept. 2023-June 2024	English teacher	Wissenschaftliches Gymnasium 'Evangelista Torricelli', Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	secondary education	teaching Cambridge International GCSE programme for English as a Second Language and Global Perspectives with CLIL
Sept. 2022-June 2023	English teacher	Liceo Linguistico 'Giosuè Carducci', Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	secondary education	holding English classes to improve oral competence
Oct. 2008-June 2023	Lecturer: Scientific English ('wissenschaftliches Englisch')	'Claudiana' Universitäres Ausbildungszentrum für Gesundheitsberufe Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	tertiary education	preparing students of Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Dental Hygiene, Obstetrics in academic reading and writing, medical terminology, exam commission
Jan.- March 2022	Research assistant	„Anglistisches Seminar“, University of Mannheim, Germany	tertiary education	data collection for cognate facilitation in young multilinguals (8-10 years) project using E-prime software
2014-2018	English teacher	Liceo Linguistico 'Giosuè Carducci', Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	second-dary education	'lettorato' by English native speaker

2001-2015	English teacher	Language Centre, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	tertiary education	teaching general (CEFR A2-C1) and academic English, Cambridge Assessment exam preparation, exam commission member
1998-2008	English teacher	Alpha Beta Piccadilly School of Languages, Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	private language school	teaching courses at CEFR levels A2-C2

Experience in academic teaching

Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano: laboratory for trainee Masters in Primary Education teachers (Teaching English to Young Learners).

Universitäres Ausbildungszentrum für Gesundheitsberufe Bozen-Bolzano: English for academic and scientific purposes in the following degree programmes: Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Dental Hygiene, Obstetrics, member of exam commission.

Language Centre, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano: English for general and academic purposes, Cambridge Assessment exam preparation, member of exam commission.

Research scholarships

Date granted	Award Holder(s)	Funding Body	Title	Amount received
01.11.2018-31.12.2021	Helen Forsyth	Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy	PhD grant	17,000 euros p.a.

Publications

Journal article submitted to JESLA (Journal of the European Second Language Association):

Receptive grammar acquisition from teachers' and Processability Theory perspectives: Application to the L3 English context

Journal article:

Forsyth, H. (2022) A processability approach to instructed language learning in multilingual contexts. *EL.LE Educazione Linguistica.Linguistic Education*. Venice University Press: Edizioni Cà Foscari. Volume 11/2, pp.179-212.

<http://doi.org/10.30687/ELLE/2280-6792/2022/02/003>

Published Conference Proceedings:

Forsyth, H. Processability Approaches to Third Language Acquisition – Implications for Multilingual Classrooms. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference on Education and New Developments 2021*. Online: World Institute for Advanced Research and Science (WIARS), Portugal, 2021 pp. 544-549.

https://doi.org/10.36315/END-2021_Book-of-Proceedings

Journal Article:

Forsyth, H. (2014). The Influence of L2 Transfer on L3 English Written Production in a Bilingual German/Italian Population. *Open Journal of Modern Linguistics*.

Published online in SciRes: volume 4, pp. 429-456

<http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/ojml.2014.43036>

**Confer-
ence
presenta-
-tions**

Investigating the factors involved in effective research proposal writing at a trilingual university with implications for didactic choices, European Association for the Teaching of Academic Writing (EATAW) 2025 conference, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, 2nd-5th July 2025

Receptive grammar acquisition from a Processability perspective: application to the L3 English context, EUROSLA (European Second Language Association) 32, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, 31st August-2nd September 2023

Developmental stages in multilingual early-stage third language learners from a processing perspective with focus on receptive competence, 13th International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB): Bilingualism in Flux, University of Warsaw, Poland, 10th-14th July 2021

Processability approaches to receptive third language acquisition: Implications for multilingual classrooms, International Conference on Education and New Developments, World Institute for Advanced Research and Science (WIARS), Portugal 2021, 26th-28th June 2021

Processability approaches to instructed language learning in multilingual contexts: Developmental stages from a receptive competence perspective, 7th Young Linguists' Meeting in Poznan, Poland (YLMP 2021), 23rd-25th April 2021

Third or Additional Language Acquisition: Which approach to take for a better understanding of the psycholinguistic factors involved? 27th Annual Graduate Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, and TESOL Symposium, Arizona State University, USA, 20th February 2021

Morphosyntax development in 3rd language learners, TESOL Italy 44th National Convention, Polo Didattico, Rome, Italy, 15th-16th November 2019

**Additional
confe-
rence and
workshop
participa-
-tion**

Chat GPT and AI writing tools: how can we respond in Higher Education? Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, 3rd November 2023

'Esperienze di comunicazione efficace scuola-famiglia secondo la metodologia pedagogia dei genitori', Intendenza scolastica italiana di Bolzano, Italy, 16th October 2023

EMLAR (Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition Research) workshop, Utrecht University, Netherlands, 18th-20th April 2023

Summer School in Corpus Linguistics, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, 4th-7th July 2022, including sessions on corpus linguistics for media analysis, critical issues in keyness analysis, corpus-based discourse analysis

'Tagung zu Mehrsprachigkeit, CLIL und sprachaufmerksamem Unterricht', European Academy (EURAC), Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, 11th November 2021

PALA 20th International Conference on Processability Approaches to Language Acquisition, University of Trento, Italy, 24th-25th September 2021

Introductory online course to Stata for data management and analysis, GESIS Leibnitz Institute for the Social Sciences Summer School, 27th-29th June 2020

EMLAR (Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition Research) workshop, Utrecht University, Netherlands, 13th-15th April 2021

PhD Winter School, Faculty of Education, University of Vienna, Austria, 6th-8th February 2020

International Symposium on Intensive Language Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Language Centre, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, 25th October 2019

DYME (Dynamics of Multilingualism with English) Conference on Metacognition in Multilingual Development: from multilingual children to polyglots, Innsbruck University Centre in Obergurgl, Austria, 18th -21st 2019

PhD Winter School, Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, 14th-16th January 2019

Celebrating Diversity – 6th Biennial Conference for English Teachers and Principals, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, 27th April 2018

Bozen-Bolzano, 23/07/2025