

## Profile of a Cambridge ESOL Speaking Examiner

A Cambridge ESOL Speaking Examiner is regarded by the organisation as having a key role in the whole process of assessing a candidate's English language ability. The mark for speaking skills constitutes at least 20% of the overall score of a Cambridge candidate and can clearly make a significant difference to whether a candidate is awarded a certificate or not. Furthermore, the Speaking Examiner is perceived by many candidates as the 'face' of Cambridge ESOL.

Cambridge ESOL therefore places a very high store on the professionalism of Speaking Examiners and has developed a major programme to standardise the procedures used in the recruitment, induction, training, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation (RITCME) of Speaking Examiners.

One of the main aims of the RITCME programme is to convey the message that becoming a Cambridge ESOL Speaking Examiner is something special and something that, in fairness to the candidates, requires an ongoing commitment to professional development.

### A Cambridge ESOL Speaking Examiner:

#### **1. Has a suitably professional background, meeting the specified minimum requirements such as:**

- Education to first degree level or equivalent preferably in a TESOL-related subject\*;
- At least three years' relevant, full-time and recent teaching experience;
- A recognised TESOL teaching qualification\*;
- Aged over 25 and under national retirement age on appointment (in accordance with local legislation).

*\*an applicant may be exempt from either, but not both, of these in the light of considerable teaching experience supported by positive references.*

#### **2. Demonstrates the following English language competencies such as:**

- Overall language proficiency relevant to the examination level. (This should be at least two levels on CEFR above the level the examiner is examining).
- Clear diction including intelligibility outside the region/country where examining takes place
- Linguistic accuracy.
- Ability to judge the grammaticality, acceptability and appropriateness of spoken English at the relevant examination level.

#### **3. Has the necessary personal qualities and inter-personal skills such as:**

- Willingness to observe the need for confidentiality and security in all aspects of the work;
- Responsibility, conscientiousness, with attention to detail;
- Ability to interact appropriately with the type of candidates for the examination(s) in question.

