

# Exploring Diversity, Inclusion and Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the MENA English Language (ESL/EFL) Classroom

## Module Overview

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### Module Background

“Inclusive education is...”

How would you finish this sentence?

Disability and learning difficulties are the most serious barriers to education across the globe. Inclusion in education often refers to student involvement, but in reality, inclusion is a complex phenomenon and means different things to different people. In a rapidly changing world teachers are now engaging with a more diverse set of students, families and teaching situations. However, teachers – like the one below – often report feeling that they lack the training, knowledge and skills, and supportive systems to fully support students who face difficulties in their learning:

**“I know I have children with special educational needs in my class, I want to help them and we are supposed to promote inclusion, but I really am not sure how to do this”**

In this FREE online Professional Development module, we will examine this challenging topic within the context of the MENA region, and then explore aspects such as:

- What is diversity and inclusivity?
- What developments have been made on diversity and inclusion in the MENA content?
- How can we develop more inclusive practices in the ESL/EFL classroom?
- How can we become more adept at removing barriers to learning?
- How can we better support students with special educational needs (SEN)?
- How to develop mini action-research projects to bring about positive change.

Working together we can develop more inclusive, student-centred learning environments, where students of all backgrounds learn and grow side by side and are prepared to fully and equally participate in education and as members of the community.

**Overview of module:** On the self-study module webpage you will see each chapter in order.

**Chapter One: Reflective Survey**

In the first chapter you can download and complete a short reflective survey, which explores your views on, and how you currently approach, the module topic (Inclusive Education) in your current teaching context, as well as your goals/expectations for the module.

**Chapter Two: Background Reading**

For this chapter you will have access to both a short (accessible) reading and a long (academic) reading on the module topic, plus a further advised reading list, so if you wish to explore the topic in more depth you can do so.

**Chapter Three: Webinar Recording**

During the live module we hosted a webinar on the topic, and you will have access to the recording to this webinar, plus any other Macmillan Education webinars related to the topic, which you can watch in your own time.

**Chapter Four: Mini Action Research Project**

In this chapter you will be tasked with designing and implementing a mini action research project to identify and develop inclusive practices in your teaching / classroom / school. You will be supported in choosing an area of focus, investigating your topic, and creating a concluding report with suggested strategy/strategies for implementing change. Reports will be shared on the website for peer review and to build our community of change practice.

**Chapter Five: Reflections**

In this final chapter you will complete and submit a short online reflective task, drawing on all of the work done throughout the module.

Once you submit the final assignment we will be in touch with your personal feedback and to provide your certificate of participation for the module within 2-4 weeks.