

Feedback on EALTA Winter School 2018 Obergurgl (Innsbruck), Austria “Assessing vocabulary in/for/through the language skills”

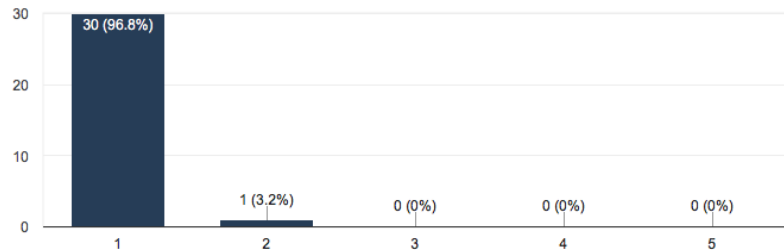
SECTION A

Please, evaluate the quality of each of the following aspects of the winter school by ticking one of the options:

1) Organisation

1 (very good) to 5 (very poor)

n = 31
Mean = 1.03
Median = 1
Mode = 1



Comments:

Very smooth organisation, very friendly organizing team, good schedule, perfect communication

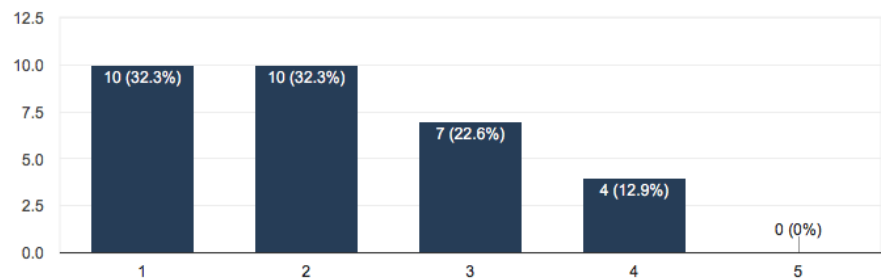
Very informative and helpful information and getting to and from the location was easy because of all the help we got.

I would have like a more detailed description of the content beforehand.

2) Cost

1 (very reasonable) to 5 (very expensive)

n = 31
Mean = 2.16
Median = 2
Mode = 1,2



Comments

seems reasonable to me ! value for money , both with respect to accomodation and with respect to course quality

Reasonable if partly funded by university, otherwise may be difficult to attend

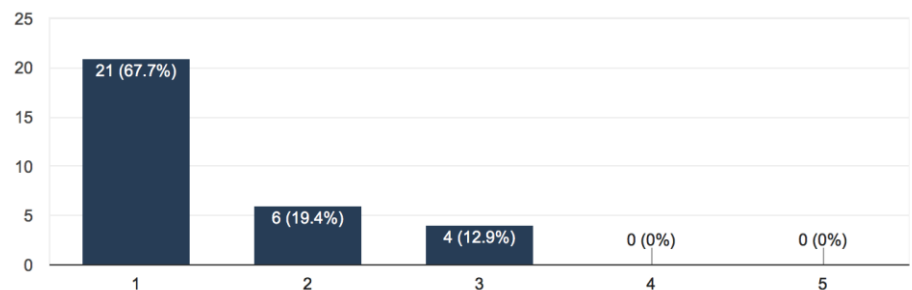
Being an ordinary teacher I attended the conference at my own expense, which, of course, is expensive.

Austrian skiing resorts are an expensive (but worthwhile) venue ...

3) Location (Obergurgl)

1 (very good) to 5 (very poor)

n = 31
Mean = 1.45
Median = 1
Mode = 1



Comments

"winterwonderland" , as Benjamin called it ! ;-)

Nice surroundings, obviously it takes longer to get there but it's worth it as it is very special and great facilities.

Beautiful, but timeconsuming and expensive travel.

Excellent location

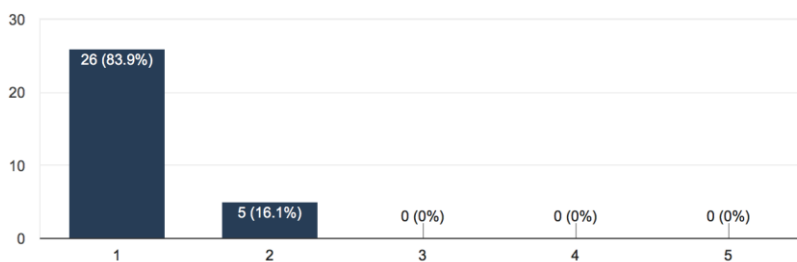
It was beautiful, but took some time getting there.

fantastic!

4) Venue (University Centre)

1 (very good) to 5 (very poor)

n = 31
Mean = 1.16
Median = 1
Mode = 1



Comments

Can't be beaten ! Perfect nice cosy clean Austrian atmosphere. Like it !

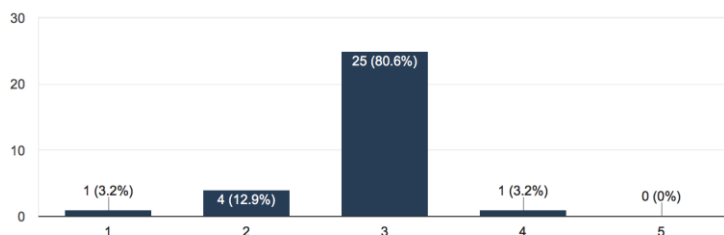
Excellent venue

fantastic!

5) Length of Winter School

1 (too short) to 5 (too long)

n = 31
Mean = 2.84
Median = 3
Mode = 3



Comments

Far too short ! :-) :-)

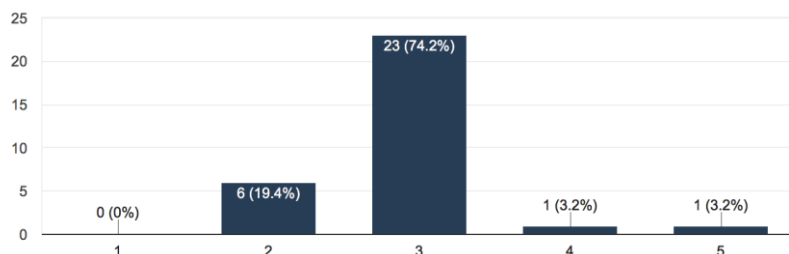
I wouldn't mind a longer stay

Just right!

6) Length of Sessions

1 (too short) to 5 (too long)

n = 31
Mean = 2.90
Median = 3
Mode = 3



Comments

perfect

Perfect

it was great to have the afternoon off, especially for those who wanted to do winter sport activities. The break was a bit long on the days when it wasn't possible to do sth. However, nobody can influence the weather ;-)

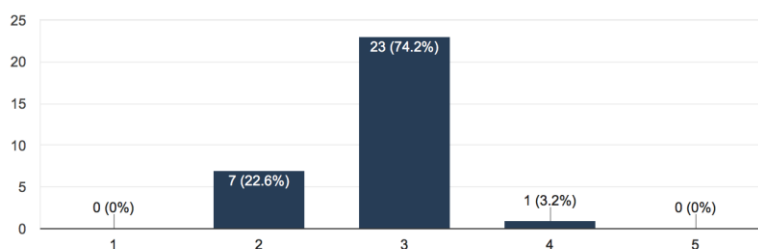
the evening sessions could have been half an hour longer

Just right!

7) Number of Sessions

1 (too few) to 5 (too many)

n = 31
Mean = 2.81
Median = 3
Mode = 3



Comments

perfect, last evening session was perhaps a bit too much, but this will be due to my concentration span ;-)

Just right

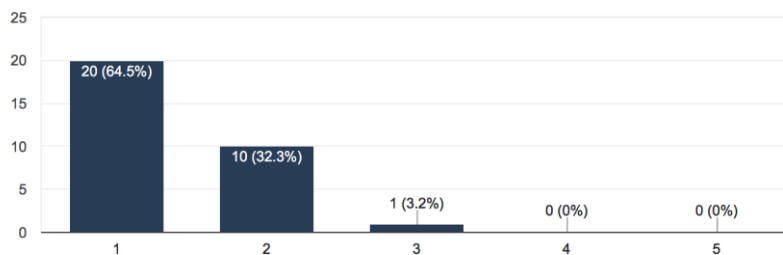
Shorter lunch break

We could have shortened the break in the middle of the day and taken out the evening session.

8) Quality of Sessions

1 (very good) to 5 (very poor)

n = 31
Mean = 1.39
Median = 1
Mode = 1



Comments

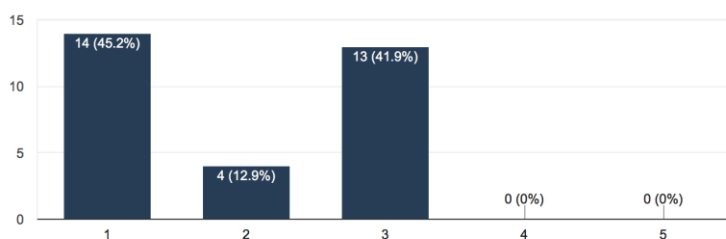
perfectly what i needed to see how my research fits within the whole of the field; i appreciated especially the ample opportunities to learn about the newest research and publications; shows the devotion and professionalism of organizers

I personally could take away more from some than others, but that also points to the wide audience catered for and thus was also a sign of good quality to me.

9) Opportunity for participation and discussion

1 (more than enough) to 5 (too little)

n = 31
Mean = 1.97
Median = 2
Mode = 1



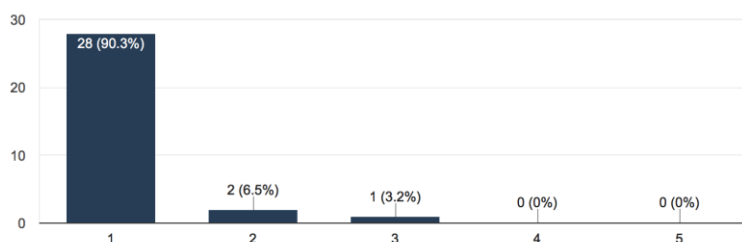
Comments

perfect, enough opportunities

10) Tutors/Trainers

1 (very good) to 5 (very poor)

n = 31
Mean = 1.13
Median = 1
Mode = 1



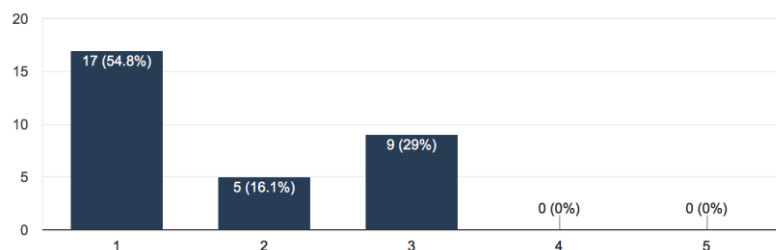
Comments

What an exceptional opportunity we got to get so closely in contact with leading / top notch researchers
It was a treat to work with each one of them.

11) Opportunity to learn

1 (more than enough) to 5 (too little)

n = 31
Mean = 1.74
Median = 1
Mode = 1



Comments

I learnt a lot from all sessions, very relevant to my research, even though the heart of my research is not testing
Waiting eagerly for the ppt as follow up

Learning also should follow, after the school, in the work field. Therefore, fast acces to the powerpoint presentations would have been welcome. We haven't yet received this acces, now, two months later. I think that is very late.
Hopefully it will soon be available!

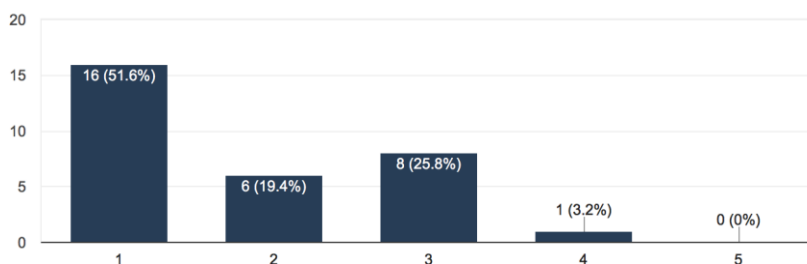
I frequently went into over-load, so learning has to be assured after the event

SECTION B – Future winter schools

1) Format (longer lunch break, evening sessions)

1 (very good) to 5 (very poor)

n = 31
Mean = 1.81
Median = 1
Mode = 1



Comments

Overall good and recommendable, especially if there is stuff to do/time to catch up with work etc. For me personally, 3 afternoons in a row without sessions seemed a bit much. Evening sessions were short, so that was ok, though concentration might not have been as high as in the earlier sessions.

If kept at that time and location, the format is great

It was a little difficult to concentrate in the evening sessions, although I really appreciated the long breaks so we could go outdoors

Maybe better no sessions after dinner

Evening session (after dinner) were sometimes hard. Particularly because they were on the two last days and we were already very tired. But it was okay anyway and difficult to do it at another time!

I really liked the format of the winter school since we had the opportunity to explore the town.

They were interesting, but difficult to stay active that late in the evening.

A nice change, although maybe not for every day. It made the whole thing kind of long.

it was very nice to have some time to enjoy the outdoors

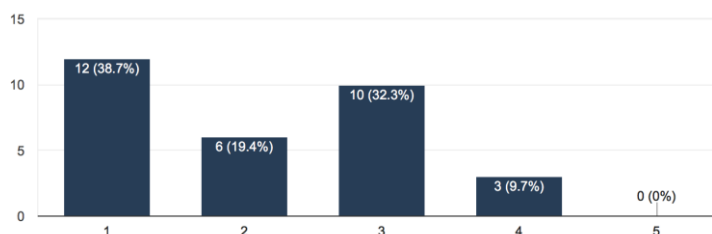
Just right!

2) Time of year

a. New year break

1 (good time) to 5 (bad time)

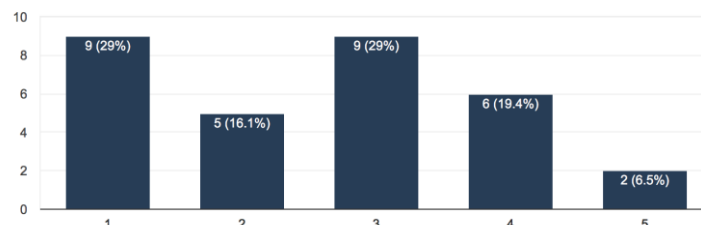
n = 31
Mean = 2.13
Median = 2
Mode = 1



b. February break

1 (good time) to 5 (bad time)

n = 31
Mean = 2.58
Median = 3
Mode = 1,3



Comments

seems good as well

We usually start teaching a lot in February so the beginning of January was better.

Always depends on the weather...

more difficult to get away from work

February break means different time slots according to institutions, especially schools ...

SECTION C

1) What in particular did you find useful?

Alternation theory-oriented sessions and practice/reflexion; very useful to be able to discuss topics in a more in-depth manner with researchers - seemed very good to me to give particular attention to both the research and teaching strand; that seemed very nice and thoughtful to me

The possibility to share ideas outside of the actual course with the trainers.

The overview and learning about assessment of vocabulary.

Teaching workshop

presentation and discussion of the variety of tests that exist

Inputs of experts, Information from A to Z (e.g., what is vocabulary to how to measure and what are benefits and costs of measure types

discussion of frequency bands, size vs depth; "it depends"; vocabulary tools, the classroom teaching session...

Different perspectives, discussion with other participants and with trainers

The workshop on vocabulary tools, the question and answer session

getting an overview of the topics and also some of the challenges involved in language testing

Practical exercises

The fact that we weren't all from the same domain, we could then exchange useful information

The sessions on use of new tools .

all practica/theoretical input for teachers in general. Information about GSE teacher toolkit and Lancslex.

Recent research studies

latest research

The diversity of the sessions I found interesting and helpful.

I found research topics and summary of latest studies very useful.

I liked the research session (although we did not get to exchange enough amongst ourselves) and the lots of time for social exchange.

tools, sources, insights

Opportunities to analyse different kinds of vocab tests; Meeting professionals from different disciplines; getting ideas for classroom testing, whilst also getting an idea about research in the area.

Part of the workshop on language assessment

Input sessions

theory and tools

mixture of theoretical input and hands-on

Aspects related to assessing productive knowledge of vocabulary

2) What in particular did you find less useful?

- (3)

I really couldn't say that any topic was less useful, I appreciated all of the sessions

As a teacher & teacher trainer, some of the more research oriented content was more difficult to digest, but it provided further insight into an area that I have less knowledge about.

The last session where the tools offered weren't too accessible.

Tools for assessing vocab levels

too big Focus on scales of Level-testing

Looking at many different rating scales for too much time which took away time for discussing application

Everything was useful

The parts about how to apply these tests in the classroom and in teaching situations were less relevant for me

Some workshop (i.e. writing and speaking) were for me not useful as I am not working in this field, but still very interesting!!

Everything was useful one way or another.

3) What changes would you like to suggest for the next winter school?

One evening session less ;-)

research sessions and classroom sessions should not take place at the same time -> so all of us have both perspectives

maybe longer sessions, like 120 minutes instead of 90

For me it would be great to have more of a research focus, and maybe some (more) suggested readings beforehand so we could be more prepared

Nothing

More workshops.

For a deeper understanding of discussed topics and the possibility to review course material/inputs in would have been useful to receive the material (especially used power points) right at the end of each da

If possible and applicable, conducting some sort of needs analysis or background info about the participants may guide the presenters to provide more to the point information.

Move to a location that is a bit easier to get to so we (in Europe) can come and leave the same day the course starts/closes.

The research and the parallel session about classroom assessment seemed to be most interesting to everybody. So maybe less groundwork, a little more advanced stuff? Maybe use the research/classroom thing for exchange between the two paradigms?

Less theory, more practice

That participants do not have to choose between classroom and research testing.

Please, record your sessions so that those who attended the Language Classroom sessions can also watch and benefit from the Research sessions

A more detailed description of the content of the program beforehand. Since my workbackground is in large scale standardized assessment of first language vocabulary and the program was all about qualitative research on second language from the applied language studies field, I felt somewhat being an outsider. I would have been nice to have had the opportunity to explore new developments in my field as well (though, surely there are many shared concepts). Stil, I immensely enjoyed the week, learning about 'the other side' and networking and socialising with other language freaks. Not to mention the excellent food, the mountains, the snow and the occasional sun. Thanks so much!

longer evening session

No parallel sessions

4) Do you have any suggestions for potential topics of the next winter school?

attention to language testing by using measures with different sensitivity (online measures, RT, ERP, etc.) , role of attentional control, conscious thinking while performing either experimental tasks or language performance

Assessment of reading. assessment of writing

assessing integrated language skills

no

Linguistic mediation.

It would be great to have something about measuring reading speed and/or comprehension

No.

-

development of scales for assessing learner's performance (oral/written). EFFICIENT use of scales in practice.

Proficiency tests or basic item analyses (statistics)

How can we improve teacher assessment literacy?

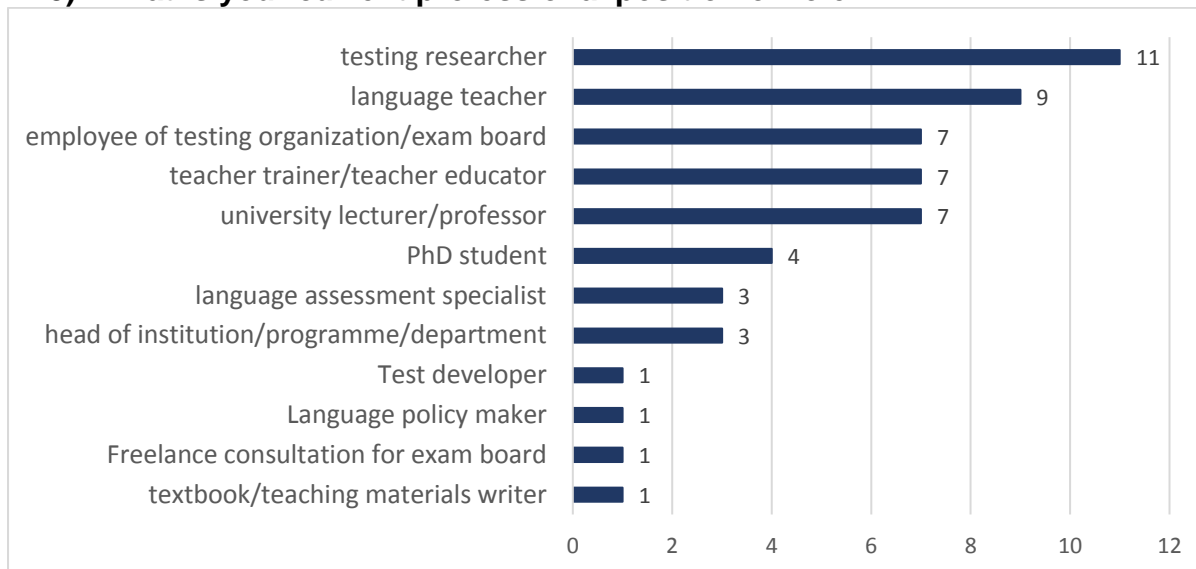
Assessment literacy? CBA? Classroom assessment?

teaching & testing grammar through skills, especially reading OR reading strategies & text analysis, especially for lower levels

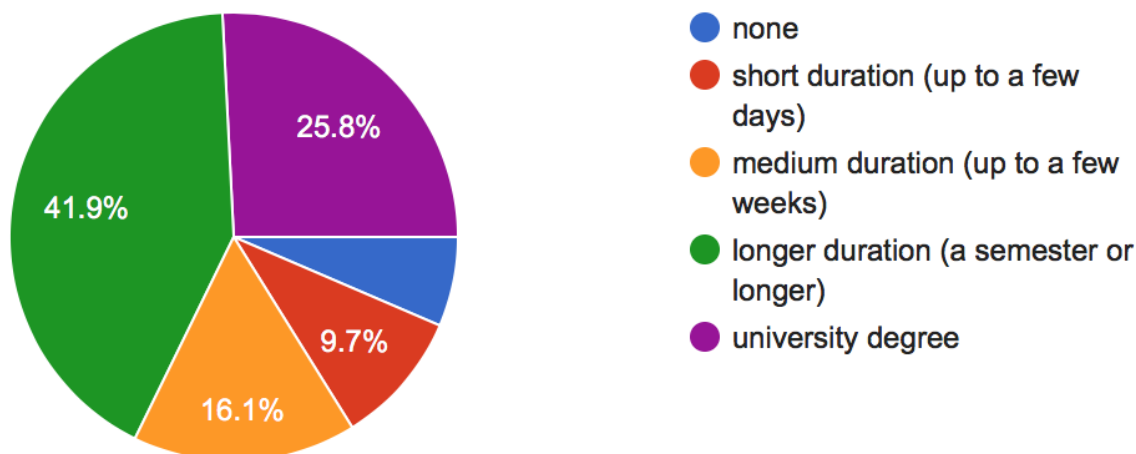
since we worked on vocabulary this time, how about GRAMMAR (linked with vocabulary) next time?

Fluency development in language skills

5) What is your current professional position or role?



6) Had you received any training in the theory or practice of language testing/assessment before the winter school?



7) General comments

- Congratulations for the whole Innsbruck team !
- My compliments to the team in Austria for a spectacular event.
- Would come again for another topic
- Thank you very much for the wonderful winter school in Obergurgl!
- Thank you for a well organized, highly successful and innovative Winter School event :-)
- Thank you very much for the excellent organisation and content of the sessions.
- This was a wonderful experience and I learned a lot - thank you so much for organizing this!
- The winter school was overall an amazing experience in all respects. Looking forward to the next one.
- Thank you for organizing this wonderful and stimulating event!
- Thank you!
- Not formal classes
- Thank you very much for this great event!
- overall very happy I joined!
- Congratulations on the first winter school!
- Wonderful atmosphere, informative sessions, excellent organization.