Motivation is a complex and multi-faceted psychological phenomenon that can hinder or enhance student performance both in and out of the classroom. However, despite its impact on learning, motivation is not often explicitly addressed in the teaching materials and resources that we use.

This session then will begin with a brief explanation of some of the key concepts in L2 learner motivation including a description of the basic types of motivation (integrative, instrumental, intrinsic and extrinsic) as well as other influencing factors such as affect, learner styles, learner identity and personality. In this part some of the key ideas from Dornyéi (1994), Dornyéi and Ushioda (2009), Gardner (2004) and Watson (2010) will be discussed.

Though some theory will be touched on, the session will mostly focus on practical suggestions for increasing motivation through various classroom activities and teaching techniques as well as discussing how to create a motivating atmosphere in the lesson. In the final part of the session the audience will be invited to join a discussion about issues related to motivation and, if time allows, to share their own ideas for increasing motivation among students.

References