Mobile learning experiences for newcomers to a city

The aim of this workshop is to examine how mobile learning on phones and tablets contributes to the experiences of international students and migrant workers who share a need for flexible and opportunistic learning to help them adapt quickly to a new environment. Smartphones have opened up possibilities for meeting urgent language learning needs and extending language practice beyond the classroom. They also provide a vital channel for advice, information sharing, social support, educational resources and engagement with local services. Drawing on three recent research projects in The Open University’s Institute of Educational Technology, the workshop presenters will initially report on what has been learnt from our design and evaluation of innovative mobile-supported learning in several European cities. The British Council funded project Mobile Pedagogy for English Language Teaching (2013-14) engaged with international students in Brighton and proposed a pedagogical framework for teachers to reflect on their practice and to consider the implications of mobile language learning. In the EU-FP7 MASELTOV project (2012-15), a prototype smartphone app was developed comprising an integrated suite of navigation, information, social interaction, and language tools for immigrants, and was trialled in four cities across Europe. In the SALSA project (2014-15), location-triggered language lessons were deployed in the city of Milton Keynes as part of the local Smart City initiative. The workshop will be structured to enable participants to share experiences and to discuss emerging policies and practices for supporting mobile learning among newcomers to a city.