

# APIBA SIGs FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions about APIBA SIGs



Asociación de Profesores de Inglés de Buenos Aires

Asociación Civil sin Fines de Lucro  
Personería Jurídica c.7111 Res. 8524/79  
CUTT: 30-66211994-2

**Q 1** *What does SIG stand for?*

A Special Interest Group.

**Q 2** *What do APIBA SIGs do?*

A APIBA SIGs enable teachers with similar interests to share ideas and make contacts through regular meetings, newsletters and conference events. A SIG is neither a course nor a seminar nor a lecture – a SIG is a **study group** in which all members participate and exchange ideas and opinions; a SIG is a discussion forum in which teachers of English can develop as professionals. SIG activities are open and democratic, and small projects are also welcome. Some possibilities include: presentation of sample classes; discussion of syllabi, of recently published material and research; development of research projects; debate on controversial issues; etc.

**Q 3** *How many APIBA SIGs are there?*

A At present, there are ten SIGs: 1. Applied Linguistics; 2. Business; 3. Computers; 4. Cultural Studies; 5. Language; 6. Literature; 7. Phonology; 8. Professional Development (Pilar, Prov. of BA); 9. Professional Development (Olavarría, Prov. of BA); 10. SLT (Second Language Teaching) (Lomas de Zamora / Bernal, Prov. of BA). We would like to encourage APIBA members living and/or working in the Prov. of BA to contact the SIGs Liaison Officer with proposals to set up new SIGs in various districts under APIBA's jurisdiction.

**Q 4** *Who can participate in APIBA SIGs?*

A To participate in a SIG you don't have to be an expert in a particular area – you need to be keen to learn new things, share ideas, debate issues, meet colleagues and develop as a professional. APIBA members are entitled to free membership of as many SIGs as they wish. SIG events are **free of charge** for: a. paid up APIBA members, b. members of paid -up FAAPI Associations, and c. teacher trainees. In ALL cases proof of status is required: a. and b. will be asked to produce their current receipt and c. their current student card. All others are welcome, but a \$10 contribution per session is requested.

**Q 5** *What is the structure of an APIBA SIG?*

A A SIG is a self-regulating unit within APIBA which is run by its members through Internal Rules. These ensure the democratic functioning of SIGs in terms of decision making, election of the Coordinator, choice of areas to explore, etc. The Coordinator organises SIG meetings and liaises with SIG members, the APIBA SIGs Liaison Officer, and the APIBA Executive Committee. The current APIBA SIGs Liaison Officer is a Committee member (Analía Kandel, October 1999 to date) and her role is to coordinate the work of the existing APIBA SIGs and to represent their interests within and beyond APIBA. However, those principally responsible for the life and structure of individual SIGs are, of course, their members.

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**Q 6** *What do APIBA SIG events consist of?*

A SIG events consist mainly of regular meetings, the frequency, content and form of which is decided on by the Coordinators and members of each individual SIG (see Internal Rules). As a guideline, SIGs tackle academic/pedagogic issues relevant to the teaching of each particular area at various contexts. Since topics are decided on and publicised in advance of a set meeting, SIG members are free to choose which meetings they wish to attend.

**Q 7** *What are the benefits of APIBA SIG membership?*

A Like APIBA as a whole, the SIGs are committed to encouraging professional development and networking. In particular, SIGs attempt to encourage the exchange of ideas within a specialist area of English language teaching. SIG members are kept informed of SIG events, and those who are either members of APIBA or teacher trainees are entitled to participate in these free of charge.

**Q 8** *How is information about APIBA SIG events publicised?*

A Information about SIG activities, dates and venues is available through the APIBA web site [www.apiba.org.ar](http://www.apiba.org.ar) (APIBA SIGs link), e-mail lists, various ELT/Education publications and noticeboards at various institutions. You can also request Analía Kandel, current APIBA SIGs Liaison Officer, [apibasigs@apiba.org.ar](mailto:apibasigs@apiba.org.ar) to e-mail you the APIBA SIGs Timetable monthly.

**Q 9** *Are there SIGs in other Teachers' Associations?*

A Although the idea of SIGs is not of APIBA's own creation – many associations, both within and outside ELT, have SIGs – in early 20 00 APIBA came up with the project of SIGs with the aims and features described above, and created copious materials for the running of SIGs. APIBA shares these materials with other FAAPI Associations (a model request letter is available from APIBA's web site or the *APIBA SIGs Handbook 2002*). Up until now, APIBA has shared SIGs materials with APRI (Rosario), APIZALS (Río Negro), APIBB (Bahía Blanca) and ASPI (Salta).

**Q 10** *How can you find out more about APIBA and APIBA SIGs?*

A For information about APIBA visit [www.apiba.org.ar](http://www.apiba.org.ar), e-mail [info@apiba.org.ar](mailto:info@apiba.org.ar), phone/fax (+54 11) 4326-3927 (*Librería Rodríguez*) or write to or visit APIBA's office (please enquire about office hours), M.T. de Alve ar 1369 ( *KEL S.A.* ), C1058AAU Buenos Aires, Argentina. For further information about APIBA SIGs, visit APIBA's web site (APIBA SIGs link) or contact APIBA SIGs Liaison Officer, Analía Kandel, by e-mail at [apibasigs@apiba.org.ar](mailto:apibasigs@apiba.org.ar)

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