

HACKNEY ESOL ADVICE SERVICE

Do you know someone who needs to learn English?

INFORMATION FOR REFERRAL ORGANISATIONS

Ba cours ya anglais	שיעורי אנגלית	Aulas de Inglês
Lekcje angielskiego	Các Lớp Tiếng Anh	英文课
ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਕਲਾਸਾਂ	Clases de Inglés	Ingilizce Kursları
Fasallada ingiriisiga	دروس الانكليزية	Cours d'anglais
کلاسهای زبان انگلیسی	Dersên Îngilîzî	ইংরেজী ক্লাস
Klasa e Gjuhës Angleze	अंग्रेज़नā वर्ग	Brofo Kasa Adesua

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is ESOL?

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses cater for people of all levels, who would like to improve their English speaking, listening, reading and writing, and/or gain qualifications to prove their level of proficiency in the language. People join English classes for a range of reasons, including to help their child at school, to become more able to deal with everyday life, for example, talking to their doctor or neighbours, or to get a job or a better job. Learners report increased levels of confidence and employment outcomes, over different periods of study.

What is the ESOL Advice Service [EAS]?

The ESOL Advice Service is a department in the Hackney Council's Adult Learning Service. The EAS works with all of the known ESOL providers in Hackney to help people who want to learn English find suitable ESOL classes. Because we work with a number of ESOL providers, who are funded using different funding streams, if a learner is not eligible for a class at one ESOL provider, they will always be offered a class at another provider.

Are ESOL classes free?

There are free ESOL classes for almost all learners. The number of free options available to individual learners will vary according to their eligibility, ability to travel, crèche needs, the options on offer in the borough at the time and other factors. The service assesses all of these factors at the advice session. The EAS will always direct learners to free options before offering them other options.

What types of classes are there?

The options available can change from term to term, however, a typical year will include courses from Entry 1 (beginner) to Level 2 (near-proficient), including embedded options such as ESOL and employment, ESOL and Childcare, ESOL and Customer Service, ESOL and fashion, and a range of other options including conversation clubs. In addition, where appropriate, learners are referred to specialist organisations for other areas of interest such as employment, volunteering, maths and ICT.

How many hours are ESOL classes?

ESOL classes range from two hours per week to full-time. There are also more flexible options, including conversation clubs and drop-ins. The range and number of options will vary for learners depending on their profile.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When are the classes?

Morning, afternoon and evening classes are available. Occasionally, there are also weekend options. The days and times of classes depend on the learner's levels, crèche needs and other factors. Courses normally run over the duration of one academic year, although termly courses are also common.

What levels are the classes?

ESOL classes begin at Entry 1 (beginner) to Level 2 (proficient), so are suitable for people who are emerging in their skills and also those who speak very well. If in doubt, please send them to an advice session, where a qualified ESOL teacher can assess them and advise them appropriately.

Are classes accredited?

There are classes with accreditation and classes without. Most accredited classes require learners to have a National Insurance (NI) number. ESOL organisations often assist learners with the process of applying for one. Asylum seekers are not required to provide an NI number.

Is there crèche provision/childcare?

A good range of ESOL classes also provide crèche on-site, and some pay for off-site childcare. If a learner needs crèche to access a class, options with crèche will be offered. The range and number of options will vary for learners depending on their profile.

Are travel costs reimbursed?

A few ESOL providers pay for travel expenses, however, most do not. Where spaces are available, the EAS will always refer learners to the class closest to their home.

Do learners need to have access to public funds?

No. Learners who have 'no recourse to public funds' written in their passport remain eligible for ESOL classes, because 'public funds' does not include education or education funding.

Do learners need to be receiving income/contribution-based benefits?

No. There are classes for learners with and without income/contribution-based benefits. The range and number of options will vary for learners depending on their profile.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What options are available for people who want to learn English to help them get a job, or get a better job?

Learners, at all levels of ESOL, who register with the EAS, and express an interest, are referred to specialist organisations which can support their employment, volunteering, ICT and/or Maths goals, alongside their ESOL course. Occasionally, there are also embedded ESOL and employability courses, which offer different combinations of support, including, but not limited to, a comprehensive package of ESOL classes and qualifications, 1:1 employment support, and volunteering.

I work with someone who is an Asylum Seeker or someone whose immigration status is still being decided. Can they access a class?

Yes. Options are available for all learners. The range and number of options will vary for learners depending on their profile.

What about people who cannot read or write in any language or have never been to school?

ESOL classes are suitable for people who have not been to school, and people who do not have literacy in any language. ESOL tutors are trained to manage the different learner profiles in their classrooms, and specialist classes also exist for people who need more time to develop their skills.

Are classes suitable for older people?

Yes, adult ESOL classes are accessible for learners who are 19 years old and above. There is no upper limit. Due to the range of options available, learners are able to choose more or less intensive classes depending on their needs.

Are classes suitable for people with mental health or special needs?

Due to the range of ESOL providers the EAS works with, options for learners with mental health needs and special educational needs are available.

I work with someone who does not speak any English. Can they register?

Yes. All of our advisors are qualified ESOL tutors and are trained in working with people who have no proficiency in English at all.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can non-Hackney residents register?

Yes. Some providers can only take Hackney residents, some can take a percentage of non-Hackney residents, and others do not have any restrictions at all. All learners who live outside of Hackney are also given information on ESOL classes within their own locality.

When will the learner join a class?

Learners can join classes at any stage in the year, subject to spaces being available. They do not have to wait for termly enrolment periods. If a learner registers and there are spaces in a class, they will be placed immediately. If there are no spaces in a suitable class, they will be placed on the waiting list and offered options, usually by SMS, as soon as spaces open. A review of spaces in the borough is carried out on a weekly basis, so that learners are not kept waiting unnecessarily. The length of time a learner will wait for a class varies significantly based on a learner's needs, including crèche, ability to travel, level and spaces available at the time of registration. Some learners wait a considerable amount of time and others join a class immediately. The more flexible a learner is able to be, the faster they will join a class.

What happens to learners who are not placed onto an ESOL class during the academic year?

It is not always possible to find a suitable option for learners who register, due to the wide range of needs learners have and the multiple barriers they often face in accessing a class. This information is, however, recorded and analysed regularly to identify areas of unmet need. The findings are then used by ESOL providers to plan better and more suitable provision each year. Learners are also invited to re-register in September and given priority access to available vacancies.

I work with people who would feel more comfortable registering together or at a familiar venue.

The EAS can offer bespoke advice sessions to groups of learners. Please contact us for more information.

What if I'm not sure if someone can access an ESOL class?

Please assume they can and send them along to register at one of the ESOL advice sessions listed on page 6. You are also welcome to contact the ESOL Advice Service on esol@learningtrust.co.uk for further guidance.

ENGLISH CLASSES IN HACKNEY

Do you know someone who needs to learn English for life and work?

Please direct them to one of the advice sessions below. A teacher will check their level of speaking, listening, reading and writing and help them to find a suitable class.

WEEKLY SESSIONS

1 Hackney Learning Trust

1 Reading Lane,
London E8 1GQ

Tuesdays, 1pm

3 Homerton Library

Homerton High Street,
London E9 6AS

Thursdays, 10am

2 Woodberry Down Children's Centre

Springpark Drive, off Green Lanes
London N4 2NP

Wednesdays, 10am

4 Linden Children's Centre

86 – 92 Rectory Road,
London N16 7SH

Thursdays, 1pm

WEEKLY EVENING ADVICE

5 Pembury Community Centre

Block A, Atkins Square, Dalston Lane
London E8 1HL

Tuesdays, 6pm

6 Shoreditch Library

80 Hoxton Street,
London N1 6LP

Wednesdays, 6pm

MONTHLY SESSIONS

7 Shoreditch Library

80 Hoxton Street,
London N1 6LP

First Wednesday of every month, 1pm

Advice sessions run from the last week of September to the last week of June each academic year. There are no advice sessions during school holidays and we are closed for 4 weeks from the second week of December. For specific dates, please visit www.learningtrust.co.uk/esol.

For further information, please call the

ESOL Advice Line

T: 020 8820 7043

E: esol@learningtrust.co.uk



ESOL ADVICE VENUES



1 Hackney Learning Trust

2 Woodberry Down Children's Centre

3 Homerton Library

4 Linden Children's Centre

5 Pembury Community Centre

6 Shoreditch Library

7 Shoreditch Library

Hackney Learning Trust

1 Reading Lane
London E8 1GQ

T. 020 8820 7000

learningtrust.co.uk
hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk

