



Bath English Language School



**15 Marlborough Buildings
Bath BA1 2LY, UK
Tel: 0044-1225-426243
Fax: 0044-1225-443067
office@bath-school.co.uk
www.bath-school.co.uk**

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Advanced Courses for students of English philology and literature, trainee translators and teachers

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Thank you for your interest in

Bath English Language School



The school was founded by Piers & Barbara Gascoigne in 1972 to provide first-class, effective, interesting and affordable language courses for students and academics.

The school building is part of one of Britain's finest and best known neo-classical architectural ensembles. It overlooks the Royal Crescent and Royal Victoria Park in the UNESCO designated World Heritage City of Bath.

Some good reasons for choosing

Bath English Language School and the City of Bath

- A successful track record of over 30 years
- Friendly, caring and professional teachers & staff
- The best of modern and traditional teaching methods
- Small classes
- Individual attention
- Friendly informal atmosphere
- An interesting choice of courses
- Superb location in the historic City of Bath
- Classes in historic house built in 1780
- Good value family and self-catering accommodation
- A first class touring centre
- Wide range of cultural and sporting facilities

What past students have to say about Bath English Language School

Thank you for a wonderful summer holiday at your language school...I shall certainly recommend your school to all my students. Mathias T.

I enjoyed your courses and my stay in Bath very much. All of you were very friendly and dedicated. Inke E.

I enjoyed attending the course and staying in Bath for two weeks. Bath is an impressive town especially, I enjoyed passing the Royal Crescent every day. Sven H.

I'll be glad to share my experience with others especially since your school seemed to me to be small but well-organised and the staff I met conscientious and reliable. Alberta B.

I really enjoyed my time at Bath and the language school. Not only was it an enjoyable opportunity to practice my English, but also it was great fun. Simone H.

I really enjoyed my time in Bath, the lessons were very good and I hope, I will remember the things I have learned! My family was wonderful, they really cared for me and we all regretted that I had to leave. And thank you for all the lifts home in the evening! Bettina S.

My course helped me a lot and I enjoyed being in Bath again very much. Esther E.

Well, I liked it here and I think I really succeeded in improving my English. Kirsten B.

Thanks for the very enthusiastic and excellent teachers who created a fantastic atmosphere in the classroom. Ortwin L.

I found the staff really, really nice; the teachers took great care of us all. I would certainly come back with pleasure. Thuy-Anh D.

I really enjoyed my stay in Bath. The courses are efficient, the teachers are really lovely and caring and the atmosphere at the school is relaxed and friendly. Bianca B.





The City of Bath

The historic city of Bath, the only UNESCO World Heritage City in England, is famous for its eighteenth century Georgian architecture, medieval abbey and Roman remains.

It is rich in literary associations and Marlborough Buildings, where the school is located, is mentioned in Jane Austen's novel *Persuasion*. The school building, a terraced Georgian town house (1780), occupies an outstanding position overlooking the famous neo-classical Royal Crescent (1767-75) with its grand sweep of 114 Roman Ionic columns. It is set in beautiful parkland and yet is only 10 minutes from the city centre. The city's voluntary guides provide regular free walking tours of Bath. A visit to Bath is an unforgettable experience!

Bath lies in the West of England and today has a population of just under 100,000.

It is 100 miles (170 km) west of London and 15 Miles (24 km) east of Bristol. From London to Bath takes 1.5 hours by train and some 2.5 hours by National Express Coach. There are good public transport connections from all major points of arrival in southern England.

(See map, p 23)



For a taste of Bath you can visit the City's websites on:

www.visitbath.co.uk

www.bath.co.uk

www.cityofbath.co.uk

General Information

The Principal Piers Gascoigne and his colleagues have many years experience teaching English as a foreign language, literature and translation studies. They are British university graduates or possess equivalent qualifications.

Size of Classes and School

The typical size of class is 8 - 10 and the maximum 14. B.E.L.S. is a small school with about 70 students in the high season.

Placement Test and Needs Assessment

There is a Placement Test on the first day of each course. This enables us to make sure you are placed in a class of the right level.

If you are uncertain what level of course to apply for, you can ask the school office to send you a Preliminary Grading Test to complete at home and return to us for marking.

We can then advise you on your choice of course.

During the first session of the course you will also have a chance to discuss your individual needs and expectations of the course.

Timetable

Classes take place Monday to Friday. The standard 3, 5 and 10-week courses have 2 periods of 90 minutes a day, plus a half-hour tea break.

The intensive 2-week courses have 3 periods of 90 minutes a day, plus a half-hour tea break and a one hour lunch break.

Classes are normally in the morning, but in the high season may alternate between mornings and afternoons on a weekly rotation basis.

There will be no classes on public holidays, except for the intensive two-week courses.

Morning Session:	09.00 - 10.30	tea break	11.00 - 12.30
Afternoon Session:	13.30 - 15.00	tea break	15.30 - 17.00

Textbooks and Learning Materials

The textbooks* used on the course will be loaned to students as required. Books must, however, be returned in good condition or a replacement charge will be made.

Photocopies** used for class work and preparation will generally be provided at no extra cost. Students will have to pay for newspapers required for classwork, and also for photocopies required for individual project-work.

* This does not apply to the Cambridge Certificate Courses or the English Literature Courses.

** Longer literary texts will be charged at cost.

Certificate of Attendance

At the end of the course all our students receive a Certificate of Attendance stating the duration and type of course, and subjects covered.

Dates & Fees

Please refer to the website.

Registration

You can also register online via our website: www.bath-school.co.uk

Introduction to Advanced English Language, Translation & Literature Courses

For overseas English language specialists:

- University students of English Philology (English Language & Literature or Anglistics)
- Trainee English Teachers
- Trainee Translators
- Teachers of English
- Other suitably qualified applicants.

Level: Upper-intermediate to upper-advanced.

We have specialized in Advanced English Language & Translation courses since 1972.

Several thousand future and practising teachers, trainee translators, and MA candidates have attended Bath English Language School in the meantime.

The courses are specifically and carefully designed for university students studying English at European universities. Practising teachers will find these courses useful as refresher courses.

We have had over 30 years experience in this area and are well acquainted with the demands of university courses across Europe. We have planned the courses with these demands in mind and with the purpose of giving the student lots of opportunity for oral practice - we are well aware that in many English Departments numbers severely limit such opportunities.

We have developed a flexible programme, which can be varied according to the interests and needs of participants. On the first day of the course you will have a chance to discuss your individual needs and expectations of the course.

Examination candidates should note that we make no claims to be preparing you for any specific examination at any particular university. We believe, however, and this is confirmed by the testimony of many past students, that our courses provide you with very useful supplementary practice for your examinations.

For a selection of comments by past students, please see "What past students have to say", on page 5.

Our courses for English specialists fall into four categories:

1. Advanced English with an emphasis on spoken English

3 weeks - Course Code A3

International Proficiency Course with emphasis on spoken English

5 weeks - Course Code A5

Intensive Two-week Crash Courses

(30 academic hours per week) 2 weeks - Course Code A2

2. Advanced English plus Translation - into English from German, Spanish, Italian & French – with an equal emphasis on General English and Translation.

General Revision Course with Translation

3 weeks - Course Code AT3

Proficiency Course with Translation

5 weeks - Course Code AT5

Winter & Whitsun Translation Courses – German into English only

2 weeks - Course Code AT2

3. English Literature: A Practical Course in Appreciation Three and Six – Week Courses (Course Code- ALit.3 & 6)

4. Extended Stays

If you wish to stay longer or prepare more thoroughly for exams, please see section on 'Extended Stays' on page 13.

Of the courses listed above AT3/A3/AT5/A5 and A2 operate on the principle of Advanced English Plus. The common component is a core syllabus in Advanced English, a general revision and further development programme aimed at increasing all-round proficiency. This programme takes up at least half the course and can be combined with the length and choice of course.

various options listed under the course headings below. The number of options varies with In the Five-week courses we can, naturally, cover more ground and go into more detail. The courses which include "Proficiency" in their titles have a greater general English content than is possible, for example, in the three-week AT3 Course, which is evenly split between Advanced English and Translation. The linguistic skills, however, required to translate are considerable. Thus practice in advanced translation is an alternative route to proficiency in English.

For detailed syllabus see pages 14 & 15

OVERVIEW OF ADVANCED COURSES FOR ENGLISH SPECIALISTS

Course Code	Total contact hours & weeks	Advanced English +		Further Studies & Activities				Translation	All day excursion to Oxford
		Core English syllabus	Further studies & activities	Essay writing	Literary Appreciation	British Life, Culture & Institutions	Advanced conversation & discussion		
		Numbers of hours						Total hours	
A3	42 3 weeks	21	21	option	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
A5	72 5 weeks	36	36	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
A2	45 2 weeks	22	22	option	✗	✓	✓	option of 12 hours if available	✗
AT3	42 3 weeks	ca.21	According to demand	option	✗	✓	✓	21	✓
AT5	72 5 weeks	ca.24	ca.12	✓	option	✓	✓	36	✓
AT2	45 2 weeks	Special programme 15		✗	✗	✗	Limited option	30	✗
A.Lit.6	87 6 weeks	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	Literary Discussion	✗	✓
A.Lit.3	42 3 weeks	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	Literary Discussion	✗	✓
CP.CA	147 10 weeks	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓

* This is our most comprehensive programme. The first 5 weeks are similar to A5



Three-Week International Proficiency Course with emphasis on spoken English (Course Code A3)

20 academic hours per week.

Level: Upper-intermediate to upper-advanced.

Five-Week International Proficiency Course with emphasis on spoken English (Course code A5)

20 academic hours per week

Level: Upper-intermediate to upper advanced. Similar in scope to A3 but more comprehensive with additional option of writing an essay on a literary topic.

If you want to attend a longer course, the A5 can be combined with 5 weeks further advanced English and examination practice for the Cambridge Proficiency or Advanced Certificate. For other combinations, see Extended Stays page 13.

Intensive Two-Week Crash Course (Course code A2)

30 academic hours per week

Level: Upper-intermediate to upper advanced. Similar in scope to A3 but more concentrated with morning and afternoon classes (6 academic hours per day).

The A2 Crash Course will suit those with little time to spare. The A2 will be particularly helpful to students who are about to take oral exams or those who urgently need to improve their language skills for practical or professional purposes.

The course aims to provide you with revision, practice & extension of the language skills you already have and help you to gain confidence in expressing yourself in English.

The longer 3 & 5 week courses leave more time for preparation and leisure activities.

Advanced English

- Grammar, idiom & usage
- Listening and reading comprehension
- Text analysis
- Vocabulary expansion
- Composition
- Conversation

plus

Further Studies & Options

- Advanced conversation and discussion
- British Life, Culture & Institutions
- General essay writing (option)
- Literary essay (option, Course A5 only)



General Revision Course with Translation (Course Code AT3)

from German, Spanish, Italian & French into English – 3 weeks

20 academic hours per week.

Five-Week Proficiency Course with Translation (Course Code AT5)

from German, Spanish, Italian & French into English

20 academic hours per week.

Target Group:

Students of English Philology, Trainee Translators and other qualified applicants.

Level:

English: Upper-intermediate to upper-advanced

Translation: Intermediate to final examination standard

Advanced English - 1 x 90 minutes a day

For further details of the Core Syllabus, please see page 14 & 15.

- Grammar, idiom & usage
- Listening and reading comprehension
- Text analysis
- Vocabulary expansion
- Composition
- Advanced conversation and discussion
- British Life, Culture & Institutions
- General essay writing (Course A5 only)
- Literary appreciation (option, Course A5 only)

plus

Translation - 1 x 90 minutes a day

(For details of the Translation Syllabus, please see page 14.)

When booking, please state source language.

Winter & Whitsun Translation Course (Course Code AT2)

German into English only – 2 weeks

30 academic hours per week

Translation - 2 x 90 minutes a day

plus

Advanced English - 1 x 90 minutes a day

Various topics and exercises will be included, such as vocabulary expansion, and grammar & usage. The programme will be determined by the needs of participants. This is an intensive, hands-on and practical translation course for "Staatsexamen" and "Lehramts" candidates and students at institutes of translation. The course is also suitable for students at earlier stages in their studies who want two weeks' intensive practice.

What to bring with you

It is essential to have a good bilingual and monolingual dictionary. Please bring with you a selection of past examination texts set at your university. It will also be helpful if you bring a sample of corrected work from your university.

English Literature – A Practical Course in Appreciation

Course Code A. Lit. 3 & 6 (3 and 6 weeks)

An advanced international course for students of English Philology and other suitable applicants, keen to enjoy, study, talk and write about English literature in English. As well as being enjoyable, the course provides useful practice for examinations.

Participating in discussions, individual presentations and essays will give you the opportunity of improving your English, both spoken and written, in the critical appreciation of English literary texts.

Particular stress will be put on revising and improving your command of the vocabulary of critical appreciation.

The material to be studied will consist of a selection of English Literature in several genres from Chaucer to the present day. Close reference will be made to the set books in the reading list. Students will be expected to have read in advance the longer works set for the course, particularly the novels and plays.

To encourage the active participation of all students in the study programme, students will be asked to prepare a short paper for presentation during one of the seminar classes. You will be free to choose a topic that is a matter of personal enthusiasm or that provides you with useful practice for your university course work or exams.

Literary critical activities may be supplemented by other topics, where appropriate, for example vocabulary extension, grammar and usage, note taking and summary writing. Where suitable both video and sound recordings of the course material will be used to stimulate discussion.

This course seeks not only to enhance your appreciation of English literature and to give you confidence in using literary critical vocabulary but also self-assurance in formulating, putting forward and defending your own ideas in English.

Reading List

The works listed provide a wide range of texts for class study, individual presentations, and essays, with opportunities for comparative studies. The list includes likely combinations of text and links for which past students have expressed interest or enthusiasm.

Poetry*

Geoffrey Chaucer	The General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale The Merchant's Tale
Edmund Spenser	
William Shakespeare	The Sonnets
The Metaphysical Poets:	Andrew Marvell, George Herbert, Henry Vaughn, John Donne Alexander Pope William Blake
The Romantic Poets:	William Wordsworth, S. T. Coleridge, John Keats, Lord Byron
20th Century Poets:	W.B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, P. Larkin, Tony Harrison, Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney

Satire

Jonathan Swift	A Modest Proposal
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Drama**

W. Shakespeare	Othello/The Merchant of Venice
John Webster	The Duchess of Malfi/The White Devil
W. Shakespeare	Measure for Measure/ Troilus and Cressida
G.B. Shaw/W. Russel	Pygmalion/Educating Rita - a comparison

Fiction

Mary Shelley	Frankenstein
Emily Brontë	Wuthering Heights
Jane Austen	Pride and Prejudice

Charlotte Brontë	Jane Eyre*
Jean Rhys	Wide Sargasso Sea*
Daphne du Maurier	Rebecca*

*The three texts listed above will be studied both as individual and "linked" texts.

Virginia Woolf	To the Lighthouse
G. Orwell/M. Atwood	1984/Handmaid's Tale
Ian McEwen	Enduring Love or Atonement

Modern British Short Stories (ed. M. Bradbury): a selection.

* Poetry:

Most selections will be from the Norton Anthology of Poetry 4th ed., Norton.

** Drama:

The selection of plays may be changed or added to when the summer theatre programmes are announced.

These are our suggestions for 2007. Applicants are invited to state their preferences. The final selection of texts and a minimum reading list will be sent to all participants

Excursions

An excursion to Oxford is included in the cost of the course. Further excursions will be offered at cost. Where possible we will organise a sightseeing and theatre trip to Stratford-upon-Avon to see a Shakespeare performance.

Set Books

The set books required on the course are not included in the school fees and not, we regret, available on loan. They can be bought through any good academic book shop or the school office.

Extended Stays

Students who wish to stay longer to improve and practise their English still further can extend their stay by taking two or more consecutive courses. The A.Lit., for example, can be preceded or followed by the AT3 to give extensive practice in advanced English, translation and literary appreciation.

Advanced English – Core Syllabus

Review of Grammar and Advanced Grammar and Usage

The grammar review covers the main problem areas of English grammar that cause difficulties to advanced students. Advanced grammar and usage covers areas which students might not have dealt with before.

You will be given study notes and exercises for homework, which will then be discussed and corrected in class. The emphasis in class will be on practice rather than theory. The number of items covered will vary with the length and level of the course, and the needs and interests of participants.

Items covered include tenses, modal and auxiliary verbs, phrasal verbs, subjunctive and unreal past, passive, conditionals, reporting, gerund and infinitive constructions, -ing forms, using participles, comparing and contrasting, prepositions, question tags & negative questions, relative clauses, articles & determiners, adverbs, adverbial clauses, 'it' constructions, conjunctions & connectors, inversion, word order and punctuation.

Spoken English

The communicative and student orientated approach of the courses means there will be considerable emphasis on spoken English. There will be a variety of grammar, vocabulary, role-play and interviewing activities done, working in pairs and small groups. This often involves discussing and comparing results with the rest of the class. The choice and presentation of material in the course is designed to encourage both informal discussion and more formal debates (e.g. "the pros and cons of private education").

Pronunciation

Careful attention will be paid to pronunciation throughout.

Reading Comprehension, Text Analysis and Summary Writing

1. You will be given texts for homework study and class discussion. We shall examine the content, the type of text, its register, style and tone, vocabulary and points of grammar interest.
2. We may do a summary in class, possibly with homework to follow.
3. The British Press: each student will be asked to buy a different newspaper and prepare a presentation discussing its language, layout, political orientation and readership.
4. If there is demand we may read and discuss a short story or poem.

Listening Comprehension

We may play and discuss an audio or video tape of an interview, discussion, news or other item. This will practise the skill of listening to different dialects and registers, as well as enlarging vocabulary.

Vocabulary Expansion

In the topic based studies we shall cover various semantic fields such as education, politics, the media, the arts, character and personality description, and travel. Sometimes we shall provide word lists for preparation, followed by other activities and exercises. Reading and listening comprehension will provide a further focus for vocabulary work. We shall do further practice with idioms, collocations, compound nouns, prefixes and suffixes, synonyms and antonyms, easily confused words, and false friends. The approach throughout will be hands-on!

Written Work (Composition)

Course work will include a variety of written tasks. Essay writing is included as an option in Course A3, AT5 and A5. Students on other courses may choose to hand in an essay for comment & correction if interested.

Advanced English - Further Studies & Options

Advanced Conversation & Discussion

In addition to more informal and ad hoc talk, further practice in spoken English will largely focus on topic studies and student presentations.

British Life, Culture & Institutions, and other Topics

Topics may be introduced by means of:

1. Word Lists (e.g. education, politics, the media, the arts)
2. Audio and video tapes (e.g. Documentaries on Eton, The State Opening of Parliament, Northern Ireland, etc.)
3. Comprehension Texts set for homework study. Preparation will often be done in groups with each group preparing a different text and reporting back.
4. An individual or group of students may introduce a topic as a presentation. Popular British topics include education, politics, law and order, Northern Ireland, the media, work and unemployment, Britishness, social class, minorities and racism. Among the more general topics are feminism, environmental issues, holidays and travel, the Third World, Europe, advertising, shopping, and literary & historical topics.

Students will be encouraged throughout to make comparisons with their own countries.

Sometimes visits can be arranged to complement work done in class, for example, to the Magistrates' Court in Bath or a local school.

Student Talks or Presentations

You will prepare a short talk on a chosen topic to be followed by questions and discussion. Your presentation will be informal and prepared with notes only. Students on the A3 and A5 courses can take full advantage of this option. Those on the AT3 and AT5 with translation and those on the A2 Crash Course will cover 6 to 10 topics within the context of their course work, but will have little time to prepare individual presentations. However, anyone interested may choose to do one.

Students wishing to do some background reading can consult the following books:

- Mc Dowall, D.** Britain in Close-up, Longmans, 1999.
- Mascull, B.** Key Words in the Media, Harper Collins, 1995.
- O'Driscoll, J.** Britain, Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Paxman, J.** The English, Michael Joseph, 1998.

Essay Writing

The courses will cover general essay writing, although you may write a literary essay if you wish. Students on the various courses may choose to write up to the following number of essays: AT3 (one), A3 (three), AT5 (two), A5 (four).

The amount of time spent in class on the formal discussion of essay writing techniques will depend on the level of interest. It is emphasised that your essay writing will improve mainly through actually writing the essays and receiving the tutor's subsequent individual corrections and comments.

The titles and length of proposed essays must be agreed beforehand with your tutor. You are welcome to select topics that provide useful practice for the general essay requirements at your home university.

Translation Syllabus

"Western Europe owes its civilisation to translators." (Louis Kelly 1979)

In Course AT3 and AT5 the Advanced English + and translation programmes take up half the course each. We offer general translation into English from German, Spanish, Italian and French.

Please state your chosen source language clearly on your Registration Form, e.g. AT3-G (German) or AT3-S (Spanish). The level is that of intermediate to final examinations in European university departments of English and institutes of translation.

The translation classes are highly relevant to most examination requirements and give you more intensive and continuous practice than is usual at university.

The objective is to improve your all-round proficiency in translation into English. The approach will be hands-on and practical rather than theoretical.

The type and subject matter of the texts chosen will be determined by the examination requirements and interests of class members.

We normally include: newspaper texts of political, social, cultural or general interest, literary critical and literary texts, as well as texts about British life, culture and institutions in the source language. When required we can also offer texts of economic or linguistic interest.

This is a general translation course and we do not do technical translation.

Among other questions, we shall consider: the type of text, register, tone and style; whether a literal or free translation is appropriate; the importance of really understanding the text in the source language; what the author wants to say, not just the meaning of the words; the need to be aware of stylistic devices; the need to be able to read between the lines and the problem of translating figurative expressions.

We shall observe the syntactic, grammatical and stylistic peculiarities of the source and target languages; we shall pay attention to false friends and the common mistakes that result from lack of concentration or carelessness.

In addition to translating whole texts, we shall do exercises that provide systematic practice in translating such items as false friends, prepositional idioms, participle and gerund constructions, time clauses and inversion.

Students are expected to prepare a written translation of a new text daily, which will be discussed and corrected in class the next day.

Preparation may be done individually or in groups. You may hand in a selection of your translations for individual comment. See page 11 for AT3, AT5 or AT2.

General English Courses

For students, academics and others (18+)

Levels: Pre-Intermediate to Advanced

Two-Week Intensive General English Course (Code GE2)

3 double periods of 90 minutes a day.

Three-Week Intensive General English Course (Code GE3)

2 double periods of 90 minutes a day.

Our General English Courses are designed for people who want to improve, refresh or perfect their English for pleasure, travel, business, professional or academic purposes.

The courses will develop your skills in speaking, listening to, reading and writing English with the main emphasis normally on spoken English.

Our study programme is flexible and the emphasis given to the items on the syllabus can be varied according to the needs, interests and expectations of each class.

The courses include instruction and practice in:

- Grammar, idiom & usage
- Vocabulary work
- Everyday colloquial English
- Conversation & discussion
- Listening & reading comprehension
- Letter writing and general composition
- Topics in British Life, Culture and Institutions
- Individual Presentations.

The programmes of the 2 and 3-week courses are similar. The 2-week course will suit those with little time to spare. The longer 3-week course leaves students with more time for preparation and leisure activities. Those planning a longer stay of two months or more should consider enrolling for a Cambridge Certificate Courses (Code C).

Further information: Please refer to contents page.



Courses for School Pupils (Course Code S)

Spring /Easter -

Two-Week crash course with 3 double periods of 90 minutes a day

Summer -

Three-Week courses with 2 double periods of 90 minutes a day

For School Pupils (age group 16 - 19).

Our elementary and intermediate courses for schoolchildren and young people concentrate on spoken English and communication skills. Our main aim is to encourage our students to talk as much English as possible and so increase their self-confidence in using the language.

The language programme will include:

- Review of Grammar
- Vocabulary Development
- Role-play
- Project Work and Presentations
- Listening & Reading Comprehension
- British Life, Culture and Institutions
- Discussion

Textbooks

All the textbooks required on the course will be loaned to the students for the duration of the course. We will make use of all the usual modern teaching aids such as video and cassette recordings.

Advanced Senior Pupils

We recommend students taking English as a main subject in their school examinations (Abitur, Matura, Baccalaureate, etc.) to apply for Courses A3, or A2 (see pages 12 - 20) for the Advanced Courses) . School leavers could also consider one of our Cambridge Courses which provide an excellent opportunity for school leavers who wish to improve their mastery of English before starting their studies or vocational training. A good command of English is fundamental in many academic fields, and for careers in the civil service, business, and industry.



University of Cambridge Certificate Courses - 10 weeks

First Certificate (Course Code CF)

Certificate in Advanced English (Course Code CA)

Certificate of Proficiency (Course Code CP)

What use is a Cambridge Certificate?

The Cambridge Certificates are among the world's best known general qualifications in English as a foreign language. They are widely recognised in commerce & industry and by state authorities. Many foreign universities encourage their students to take the Cambridge Certificate examinations. Most English-speaking institutions of higher education accept the Certificate of Proficiency and the Advanced Certificate as proof that a foreign student has an adequate command of English to follow a course of study in English.

Who can take the Cambridge examinations?

Anyone with the right level of English. If you are uncertain about your level of English, we can send you a Preliminary Grading Test to complete at home and return to us for marking.

Cambridge Certificate Courses at B.E.L.S.

Our courses cover the syllabuses in a lively, thorough and efficient way and enable you to achieve good examination results in the shortest time possible. The syllabus of our International Five-week Proficiency Course is similar in style and content to the first five weeks of our CA and CP courses. The second five weeks cover further advanced English and exam practice.

What do the Cambridge Certificate examinations test?

Each examination tests the four main language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing - and assesses the ability to use a variety of structures and functions in real-life situations. The Proficiency Examination also tests your ability to handle ideas and express yourself in more intellectual contexts.

Exam entry

The examinations can only be taken in June and December. Details of examination fees, which are not included in the school fees, can be obtained from the School Office. Students not resident in Britain who attend the summer examination course (August - October) must arrange to take the December examination in their country of residence, preferably before they come to England. A list of examination centres for external candidates can be obtained from:

UCLES, EFL Department,
Tel. 01223 - 553311
Email. helpdesk@ucles.org.uk

1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU
Fax. 01223 - 460278
<http://www.ucles.org.uk>

Private Lessons

Standard one-to-one and small-group tuition in general and business English at all levels is available at a standard hourly rate.

If you have specialist requirements, please contact us and discuss them with us and ask for a quotation.

Students attending our regular fixed-term courses may, at our discretion, be offered private tuition at a concessionary rate.

Group Tuition by special arrangement

We can quote to design and run tailor-made English courses in Bath for companies, educational establishments, public & professional bodies, and private groups.

Please contact us and discuss your requirements with us.

Accommodation and Welfare

Family Accommodation

We recommend you to stay in one of our carefully selected English families. They provide comfortable, good quality accommodation in homes where a personal interest is taken in our students. Family accommodation is not only good value but gives you an opportunity to get to know the English way of life and practise your English. You will be the only guest from your country staying in the family, unless you ask to share with a friend. The cost of family accommodation includes a single room and half-board (i.e. breakfast and the main meal of the day).

Self-catering Accommodation

Basic student accommodation in a single room in a flat or house with kitchen and bathroom facilities shared either with other students or the owner of the house, or both. For students of 18 years of age and over only.

Alternative Accommodation

Information about hotel, guest house or superior holiday apartment accommodation can be obtained through the school office. Apartments vary in price according to standard and size and booking usually involves paying a deposit.

Welfare

We are well aware of all the problems that you may face in living in a different country and our teachers and office staff are happy to help you with any practical difficulties that you may experience here - getting medical or dental treatment, for example.

Insurance

Students are strongly advised to take out appropriate medical and travel insurance before coming to Britain. Most overseas visitors are not entitled to free medical treatment within the N.H.S.



Social & Leisure Programme

Excursions & Theatre Trips

An excursion to Oxford during the school week (Monday to Friday) is included in all courses of three weeks or more. There are no classes on the day of the excursion and no extra charge is made for travel to Oxford. The same deal can be offered to two-week students if the decision to go to Oxford is unanimous. We can organise further excursions at cost price according to interests, such as a trip to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon to see a Shakespeare performance. Theatre trips are also arranged in Bath, Bristol and Salisbury. A popular excursion is a combined visit to the prehistoric sites of Avebury and Stonehenge and the medieval city of Salisbury with its magnificent gothic Cathedral.



Social & Cultural

On the first day we normally organise an informal get-together with new students in a local pub or café over lunch. There will generally be a school party during your stay where you can meet students from other classes and members of staff.

There are many cafés as well as traditional and modern pubs, some of which put on live music - folk, jazz and rock etc. For those with more classical taste Bath and Bristol offer a full programme of concerts, ballet and opera. Both Bath and Bristol have first class theatres and the programmes are displayed on the school notice board.

Bath and the surrounding area are rich in places of cultural and historical interest. There are fine cathedrals and churches - Bath Abbey, Wells, Salisbury and Bristol Cathedrals, The Saxon Church, Bradford-on-Avon; castles, stately homes and historic houses; parks - Stourhead, Royal Victoria Park and Botanical Gardens, Bath; museums - American Museum and Museum of Costume; ancient monuments - The Roman Baths, Bath and the prehistoric stone circles at Stonehenge and Avebury.

Film Evenings

There is a regular evening programme of English language films on video on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sports Facilities

Facilities are available at the Bath Sport and Leisure Centre and at the University of Bath's Sports Training Village. Tennis courts can be hired in the public park in front of the school. There are also opportunities for golf, squash, rowing and canoeing.

General Conditions

What does the price of accommodation cover?

The price of family accommodation covers your room with part-board. Part-board comprises breakfast and the main meal of the day, (a proper cooked meal with sweet) usually taken in the evenings (lunch is not included). Your room should be equipped with a table or writing desk and adequate lighting and heating (see comment below) should be provided at no extra cost.

The price of self-catering accommodation covers your room (equipped with a desk) and use of bathroom and kitchen facilities shared with either the owners of the house or other students. Your landlord will provide you with linen, towels, crockery, cutlery, pots and pans.

In self-catering accommodation heating may be charged extra.

Students must make allowances for the fact that the standards of heating and insulation in England are generally not as high as on the Continent. Our advice is to bring some warm clothing, especially in the Winter and Spring.

No refunds will be made for any meals not taken or days spent away from your family during your stay.

We make every effort to ensure that your accommodation is of a decent standard but we cannot be held responsible for any insufficiencies, though we will do our best to solve any genuine problems you may encounter.

What do the school fees cover?

There are 4 academic hours tuition (2 x 90 min.) daily from Monday to Friday. The intensive two-week courses provide 6 academic hours tuition (3 x 90 min.) a day. An excursion to Oxford or another place of interest is included as an integral part of your course except for the 2-week courses. The textbooks required will be lent to you for the duration of the course and must be returned in good condition.

Please note that the set books required for Course A.Lit. are not included in the course fees.

They can be obtained from any good academic bookshop.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and punctually. No refunds will be given for any class or part of the course not attended.

Travel

You are expected to make your own travel arrangements. Consult your local Student Travel Office or other travel agent, who will advise you about cheap flight and train/boat passages to England. If you can, book straight through to Bath.

Insurance

We strongly recommend you to take out a comprehensive travel insurance.

This should also cover you for emergencies and contingencies that necessitate you interrupting our course to return home.

The school will not reimburse school fees under such circumstances.

Arrival and Departure

You are expected to arrive the Sunday before your course begins and leave the Saturday after it ends. Arrival on Saturday may be possible if you make suitable arrangements with your host family/landlord. In general, however, you must find your own accommodation if you arrive before Sunday. If you stay earlier or later than the days specified, you should pay for the extra accommodation provided.

When we have confirmed your booking and given you the address of your host family/landlord, you must let them know the date and time of your arrival as soon as possible so that they can arrange to meet you or tell you how to get to them.

Public Holidays

B.E.L.S. accepts no obligation to provide classes on public holidays and no refunds will be given for classes thus missed. We will usually offer an excursion or activity such as a country walk around Bath on the day instead. Where a single public holiday occurs during a two-week crash course, we will at our discretion either teach on the day or the Saturday before or after.

Where two public holidays take place during a course, such as at Easter, we shall usually teach on the first, e.g. Good Friday and organize an activity for those interested on the second, as for example Easter Monday.

Cancellation of Courses by B.E.L.S. and our Rights to refuse Bookings

B.E.L.S. has the right to refuse or cancel bookings made in exceptional circumstances. In the event of B.E.L.S. cancelling a booking, all deposits and course fees received will be returned. B.E.L.S. will not accept liability for air or other transport fares lost due to cancellation or any costs incurred by clients.

Our rights to expel students

B.E.L.S. reserves the right to expel students who:

- a do not obey the rules of B.E.L.S.
- b break any British laws
- c abuse B.E.L.S.'s staff, host families, or who wilfully damage property
- d bring B.E.L.S. into disrepute

In the event of an expulsion being necessary, no course fees will be returned.

Liability

B.E.L.S. does not accept liability for any losses or expenses due to delay, sickness, quarantine or any other cause.

Changes to the syllabus

B.E.L.S. reserves the right to make any changes to the course syllabus it considers appropriate.

