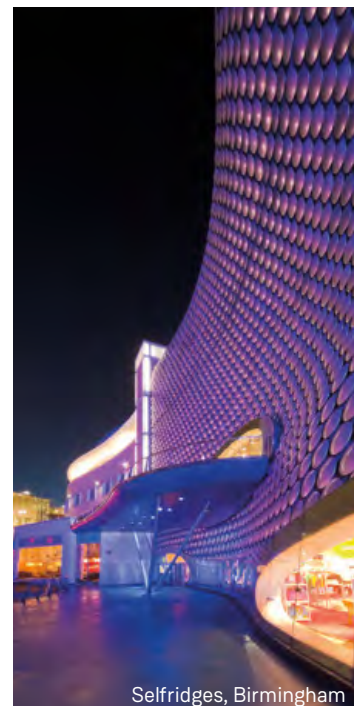


Brasshouse Languages

at the
Library of
Birmingham



English Course Guide



Accredited by the
BRITISH COUNCIL
for the teaching
of English in the UK

ENGLISHUK
member



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
Language Assessment
Authorised Centre

When I came to Brasshouse, at first I was nervous. But the teachers are very kind, friendly like my family.

Wonjin
from **South Korea**



I am enjoying the course. I learn new things every day and I meet people from different countries.

Abrar
from **Kuwait**



What students say about studying at Brasshouse Languages ...

Birmingham is very different from where I come from. The city offers different things to do, sightseeing, culture and nightlife.

Violeta
from **Spain**



I feel at home in Birmingham. There are so many things to find out, the history and the culture.

Nicolas
from **Colombia**



91% of students said that the Brasshouse English course met their needs.
95% of students said that they were happy with the quality of our teaching.

(Source: End of course survey - Spring term 2016)

Come to Birmingham!

Birmingham is a modern, vibrant city in the heart of the UK. It is an ideal location to learn English, giving you the chance to live and study in a truly multicultural setting.

Birmingham is the second biggest city in the UK and while it offers services, venues and cultural opportunities equal to any large European city, you will find living expenses much cheaper than in London. There is a wide variety of museums, theatres and music venues as well as thriving nightlife, world-class sports events and venues and excellent shopping facilities.

Birmingham has unrivalled transport links with the rest of the UK. London is only 90 minutes away by train and major tourist destinations like Stratford-upon-Avon (the birthplace of William Shakespeare) and the beautiful English countryside of the Cotswolds are both less than one hour away. Birmingham International Airport with flights to destinations all over Europe is a ten-minute train journey from the city centre.



Canal side, Gas Street Basin



Victoria Square, Birmingham

Why you should choose to learn English with Brasshouse Languages

Brasshouse Languages is the largest Adult Education centre in the UK specialising in language courses and services. Students and staff from all over the world bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our centre creating a truly international atmosphere.

Our English classes cover a wide range of language skills and will help you to use English more confidently and effectively. Our highly qualified and experienced teachers and the relaxed and friendly atmosphere in class guarantee that you learn and have fun at the same time.

We have General English classes at all levels from Beginners (A1) to Upper Intermediate (B2) and Exam Preparation classes for internationally-recognised exams such as IELTS or the Cambridge English suite of exams (FCE, CAE and CPE). Brasshouse is an authorised Cambridge English Language Assessment Examinations Centre.

Full-time Courses

Morning Classes

General English

In the morning classes you will improve your everyday English skills and learn the language that you need for work and further education. Our experienced and highly qualified teachers will assess your individual needs and help you to achieve your learning goals. You will develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in fun and engaging activities. These will develop your knowledge of English grammar and increase your vocabulary. You will learn through group and pair work and will develop your fluency, improve your pronunciation and use English more confidently.

At the end of each term, your teachers will assess your progress and discuss whether you are ready to move to the next level. It usually takes at least two terms on a full-time course before our students move up to the next level.

Exam Preparation

Our full-time morning Exam Preparation courses help you to improve your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills while focusing on the language necessary for you to pass the exam. Our tutors have considerable experience of teaching at these levels and will guide you through your studies, assessing and advising you along the way. You will expand your grammatical skills, extend your range of vocabulary and take part in lively and motivating activities while developing the techniques that will help you to be successful in the exam.

Afternoon Classes

Fast track your English learning

While enrolling on our morning classes will help you improve your English, the simple fact is the more practice you get, the quicker you will learn. To broaden the learning opportunities of students on our full time courses we run a range of afternoon classes. These modules focus on particular skills like *Listening & Speaking* or learning how to understand *Natural Everyday English* better. These extra classes will develop your individual learning.

You can add on either one or two modules depending on whether you choose to follow the 18 or 21 hour course.

I am enjoying my course because the teachers are nice and they teach me in different ways.

Kazuya
from Japan



Study programme options

Before you start a full time study programme you will take a placement test. We will discuss your individual learning goals and then you will be allocated to an appropriate class.

Morning Classes

Monday to Friday 09:30 - 13:00

General English

Levels of study include: Beginners, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate or Upper Intermediate.

Exam Preparation

You can only join an exam preparation class if you have the appropriate level of English. Exams are offered in First Certificate in English (FCE) or Certificate in Advanced English (CAE).

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) course is only available to students at Upper Intermediate level or above.

Afternoon Classes

Listening & Speaking

Monday and Wednesday 13:45 - 15:15

Reading & Writing

Tuesday and Thursday 13:45 - 15:15

Natural Everyday English

Tuesday 13:45 - 17:00

Get that job! (English for Job-hunting)

Wednesday 13:45 - 17:00

IELTS Exam Preparation

Wednesday 13:45 - 17:00

Speaking in Public

Thursday 13:45 - 17:00

Hours of study per week

15

18

21

choose

1

afternoon class

choose

2

afternoon classes

Part-time Courses

Our part-time courses run for three hours per week. However we programme our timetable so you can study for longer should you wish.

By choosing to study for six hours a week, you can join a *Listening & Speaking* class on Monday and Wednesday afternoons **AND** a *Reading & Writing class* on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Alternatively, you can study in a three hour a week *General English* or *Exam Preparation* course **AND** a *Speaking & Listening* **OR** a *Reading & Writing* class.

Morning Classes

General English

Friday 09:30 - 13:00

Suitable for students at Pre-intermediate, Intermediate or Upper Intermediate level.

Exam Preparation

Friday 09:30 - 13:00

Suitable for students preparing for the Cambridge English Language Assessment First Certificate exam.

Afternoon Classes

Monday 13:45-17:00

General English

Intermediate

Tuesday 13:45-17:00

General English

Elementary

Wednesday 13:45-17:00

General English

Upper Intermediate

English Skills - Listening & Speaking

Monday and Wednesday 13:45 - 15:15

Suitable for students at Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate or Advanced level.

English Skills - Reading & Writing

Tuesday and Thursday 13:45 - 15:15

Suitable for students at Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate or Upper Intermediate level.

Natural Everyday English

Tuesday 13:45 - 17:00

Suitable for students at Intermediate, Upper Intermediate or Advanced level.

Do you ever wonder why the language you speak in class sometimes sounds different to the language you hear outside Brasshouse? Do you want to feel more comfortable in English conversations?

This course will help you to understand what sounds 'natural' to a native speaker, practise different kinds of everyday dialogues, improve your pronunciation and become more confident when speaking in English.





I enjoy living in Birmingham, it is a big city but the people are very nice and friendly.

Bayader from Saudi Arabia

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Wednesday 13:45 - 17:00

Suitable for students at Upper Intermediate or Advanced level.

Students on this programme will prepare for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam.

Get that job! (English for Job-hunting)

Wednesday 13:45 - 17:00

Suitable for students at Intermediate, Upper Intermediate or Advanced level.

Learn and practise the language that you will need to get a job! The course will include filling in application forms, sending cover letters, writing CVs and extensive practice of interview skills. By the end of the course, you will have produced a portfolio of documents to use in your job-hunting and will have all the skills and knowledge required to get the job that you want, whether in the UK or abroad.

Speaking in Public

Thursday 13:45 - 17:00

Suitable for students at Intermediate, Upper Intermediate or Advanced level.

Giving a presentation, speech or talk can be a difficult task which needs a wide range of communication skills. This course will help you to develop these essential skills and prepare you to take the LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) Examination in Communication: Speaking in Public which is recognised throughout the world.

Evening Classes

<p>Monday and Wednesday 17:45 - 20:45 (6 hrs a week)</p> <p>Exam Preparation Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)</p>	<p>Monday 17:45 - 20:45 (3 hrs a week)</p> <p>Exam Preparation First Certificate in English (FCE)</p>	<p>Tuesday 17:45 - 20:45 (3 hrs a week)</p> <p>General English Pre-intermediate & Intermediate</p>	<p>Wednesday 17:45 - 20:45 (3 hrs a week)</p> <p>Exam Preparation Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE).</p>	<p>Thursday 17:45 - 20:45 (3 hrs a week)</p> <p>General English Upper Intermediate</p> <p>Exam Preparation IELTS</p>
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English Summer Programme

Why not spend your summer holiday improving your English, experiencing a different culture and meeting people from all over the world? On our English Summer Programme, while you learn English, you will get a taste of living and studying in the UK. Classes cover a wide range of English language skills and will help you to use English more confidently and effectively. Our experienced teachers and the relaxed and friendly atmosphere in class guarantee that you learn and have fun at the same time.

Outside the classes, you will use your English skills in everyday life, through film and television, newspapers and books, shopping and entertainment.

As well as 21 hours of classes per week, you can also choose to enjoy our social programme. This includes day trips to places of interest like London, Oxford and Bath. We also organise trips to museums and historical houses in Birmingham.



Bibury Village, The Cotswolds, Gloucestershire



Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



Selly Manor, Bournville

Morning Classes

Monday to Friday 09:30 - 13:00

General English

Levels of study include: Beginners, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate or Advanced.

Exam Preparation Classes

You can only join an exam preparation class if you have the appropriate level of English. Preparation courses are available for First Certificate in English (FCE). The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) preparation course is only available to students at Upper Intermediate and Advanced levels.

Afternoon Options

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 14:00 - 16:00

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons you will attend one of a variety of skills classes. These afternoon classes vary from year to year and often include Speaking & Listening, Reading & Writing, Natural Everyday English, Art and Culture, Grammar Skills and Magazine Production.

General Information

Term Dates

1. Autumn Term 2017

Monday 11 September to Friday 15 December
Half term break Monday 23 - Friday 27 October

2. Spring term 2018

Tuesday 2 January to Thursday 29 March
Half term break Monday 19 - Friday 23 February

3. Summer Term 2018

Monday 16 April - Friday 29 June
Half term break Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June

4. The Summer Programme 2018

Monday 2 July - Friday 29 July
and / or Monday 30 July - Friday 24 August

Class size at Brasshouse

The average number of students per class is 16 and the maximum is 20. The minimum class size is eight. If the number falls below this, we may need to close your class and offer you an alternative.

Age Restriction

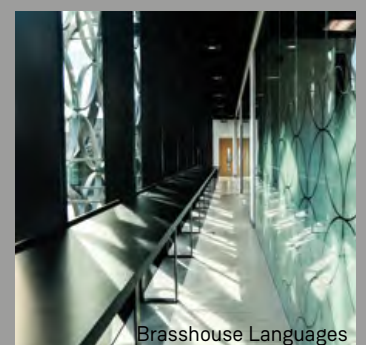
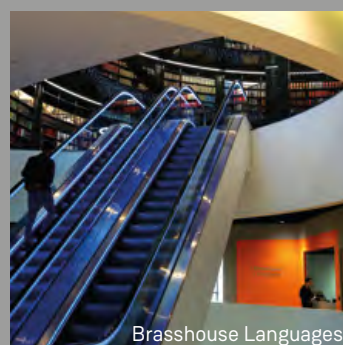
Brasshouse Languages cannot accept students under the age of 18.

Course Books

Most classes follow a set course book. You will be required to buy the book at the start of the course. Books cost between £25 and £40. Speak to your teacher before buying the course book and make sure that you buy the right one. We cannot exchange books or refund any money paid for books.

Brasshouse Languages at the Library of Birmingham

Brasshouse Languages is based on the first floor of the Library of Birmingham, a brand new centre with the latest technology and access to the facilities and services of the biggest public library in Europe. The centre has 24 purpose-built air-conditioned classrooms with interactive Information Technology facilities. This iconic building, the most visited tourist attraction in the UK outside of London, was designed by internationally-acclaimed Dutch architects Mecanoo and occupies 31,000 square metres over ten levels including two outdoor terraces, a cafe and the Shakespeare Memorial Room. Brasshouse students can join the Library of Birmingham free of charge and gain access to over 100,000 books and a vast collection of music, film and television on CD and DVD available to borrow. They also enjoy free WiFi and a wide range of computing and printing facilities.



Social Programme

Our Social Programme will help you to enjoy your free time and make friends. There are occasional day trips to places of interest like London, Oxford, Cambridge, Bath and Cardiff. The cost of each day trip is between £20 and £30.

We also organise afternoon trips to museums and historical houses in Birmingham. This type of activity and trip costs between £10 and £20.



The Jam House, St Paul's Square



Ikon Art Gallery, Oozells Square



Canal boats, Gas Street Basin

Certificates

At the end of each course, you will receive a certificate of attendance. You are required to attend at least 80% of classes to obtain the certificate.

Cambridge English Language Assessment Exams

Brasshouse is an authorised Cambridge English Language Assessment exams centre.

The following exams are held at regular intervals throughout the year:

- Preliminary English Test (PET)
- First Certificate in English (FCE)
- Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)
- Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE).

The exam fee for each of the exams is £140. For more information about exam dates, please visit our website.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Exam

You can take the IELTS exam at the International House centre in Birmingham City Centre. For more information, go to <http://www.ihlondon.com/exam-centre/ielts-exam-centre/ielts-test-birmingham/>

Refund Policy

If you change your mind within ten working days of registering for a course, we will refund your fee minus the non-refundable registration fee.

Once the course has started, fees are non-refundable.

Learners who fail to attend any part of the course due to illness or any other reason, whether within or outside the learner's control, will not be entitled to a refund of fees (nor attend any additional classes in place of those missed) unless a medical certificate (in English) or a visa refusal notice is provided. A refund of fees must be requested within two years of registration. Refunds are payable to the person who originally paid the fees.

Learners who fail to complete a course, for any reason, will not be entitled to a refund. Full Terms and Conditions for Brasshouse English courses are available on our website.

Support Available

Student Counsellor

A free counselling support service is available for all Brasshouse Languages English students. Our counsellor is there to

- Listen to our students without criticising.
- Talk through your problems sympathetically.
- Help you access external support wherever necessary.

You can make an appointment to see the Student Counsellor at the Brasshouse Languages reception desk.

Study Visas

For detailed information about short term study visas, please visit the UK Immigration and Visas website at <http://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa>

Comments, Compliments and Complaints

We welcome feedback from learners before, during or after your course.

For any comments, compliments or complaints, please contact

Pauline Desch, Head of English Tel: 0121 303 2523 Email: Pauline_Desch@birmingham.gov.uk

If you prefer, there is a more formal procedure for complaints. Please collect a *Your Views* form at the Brasshouse Languages reception desk.

More Information

If you would like more information about Brasshouse English courses please contact us by phone or email.

Telephone: 0121 303 0114

Email: brasshouse@birmingham.gov.uk

Website: www.brasshouse.ac.uk/efl

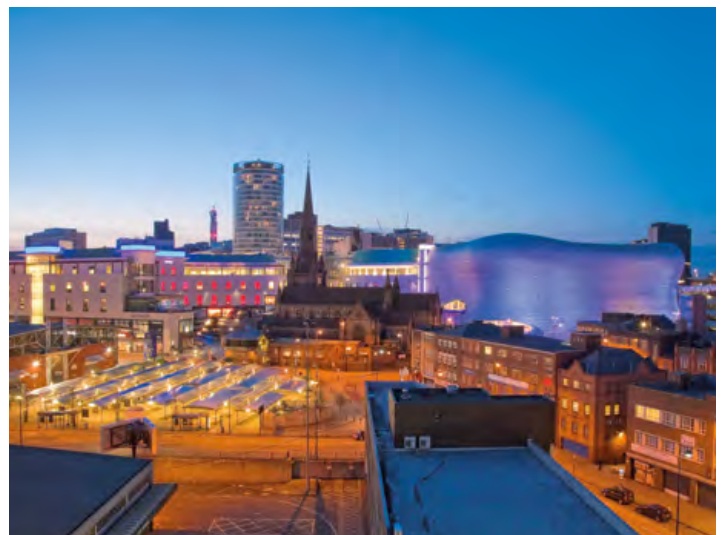
We will be happy to answer your questions and advise you on the best options for you.

Brasshouse Languages, Library of Birmingham - 1st floor, Centenary Square, Birmingham B1 2ND

For further information about Birmingham, please go to www.visitbirmingham.com



Bullring Shopping Centre and St Martin in the Bull Ring



St Martin in the Bull Ring and Selfridges, Birmingham



Birmingham Skyline

Course Enquiries

Call: **0121 303 0114**

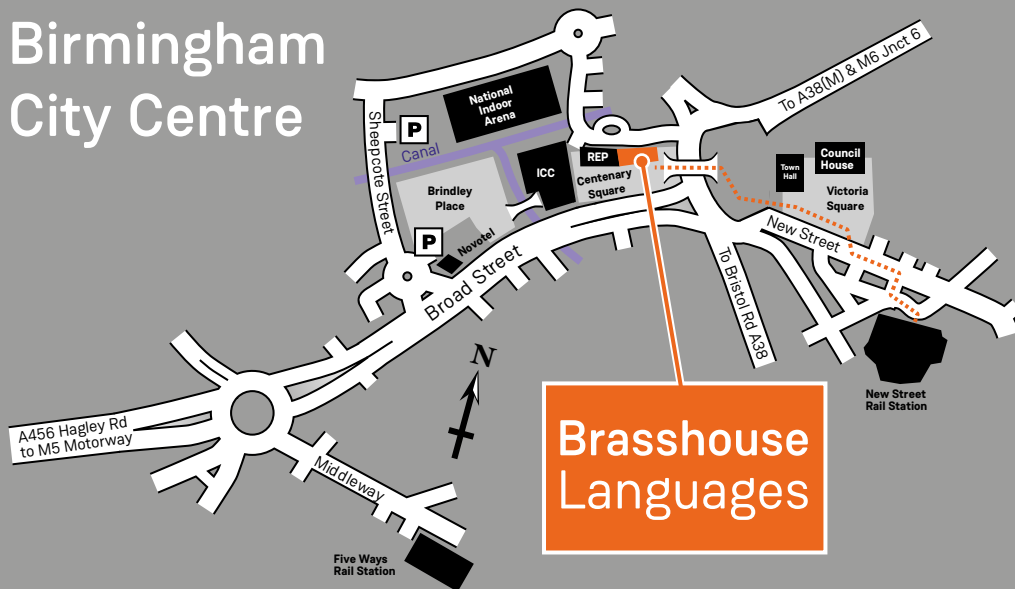
Visit: **www.brasshouse.ac.uk/efl**

Email: **brasshouse@birmingham.gov.uk**



How to
find us

Birmingham City Centre



Library of Birmingham
1st floor,
Centenary Square,
Broad Street
B1 2ND



Birmingham
Adult
Education
Service



Birmingham
City Council