



**SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

Accredited by the



**BRITISH
COUNCIL**

for the teaching
of English in the UK



INTERNATIONAL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

COURSE GUIDE

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WELCOME

I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO SOUTH AND CITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM. WE ARE ONE OF THE BIGGEST COLLEGES IN THE UK AND WE ARE BASED IN ITS SECOND BIGGEST CITY, BIRMINGHAM.

Over 13,000 students choose to study at South and City College Birmingham making us one of most successful government-funded colleges of further education in the UK.

I know how important it is to make the right choice about where to study and I know how difficult it can be to decide which course, college and country to study in. At South and City College Birmingham we want to offer the best education, best cultural experience and best chance to be successful in the future that any college can.

We are proud to be a Tier 4 sponsor, and as such are able to offer a range of courses, including English language programmes.

We have an excellent English department which was recognised as 'dynamic and vibrant' by Ofsted - the official inspectors for colleges and schools. If you, or the students you represent, are looking to improve English language skills we can offer you the right training and education to meet your needs.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to talk to someone about any part of the college lifestyle, please contact our international team and we will be happy to help you.

Our main International Course Guide will provide you with information on our vocational courses; Level 3 through to degree.

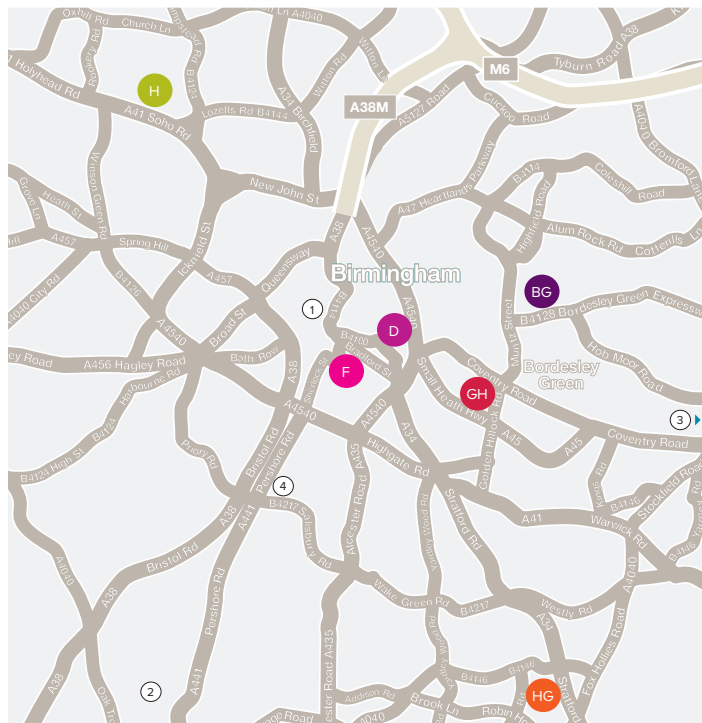


Mike Hopkins
Principal

WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

BIRMINGHAM ITSELF IS A FUN, VIBRANT AND DYNAMIC CITY, WITH LOTS TO OFFER VISITORS FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE. THE CITY CENTRE IS A FUSION OF ATTRACTIVE SQUARES, MODERN SHOPPING ARCADES AND CENTRES, PUBS, BARS AND RESTAURANTS AND FINE MUSEUMS, THEATRES AND ART GALLERIES – TRULY A GLOBAL CITY.

The college has six campuses around Birmingham, each of them with great facilities to make your experience at college unforgettable. You can see the locations of the campuses and just some of the local attractions on the map below:



- BG Bordesley Green Campus & Construction Centre**
Bordesley Green, Birmingham B9 5NA
- D Digbeth Campus**
High Street Deritend, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5SU
- F Fusion Centre**
334 - 339 Bradford St, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6ES
- GH Golden Hillock Women's Centre**
103 - 105 Golden Hillock Road, Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0DP
- H Handsworth Campus**
The Council House, Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 9DP
- HG Hall Green Campus**
Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 8ES

South & City College are merging in 2017 with Bournville College, opening up many opportunities and provision on offer.



① The Bullring Birmingham

The world-famous shopping centre is home to 160 shops, including Selfridges department store.

Walk: Only 5 minutes from Digbeth Campus



② Cadbury World

A must for chocolate lovers, find out about the history of Cadbury, watch chocolate being made and have a go at making your own.

Train: 13 minutes



③ Birmingham Airport

There are daily flights to hundreds of worldwide destinations, both international and domestic.

Train: 15 minutes



④ Edgbaston Cricket Ground

Home to Warwickshire Country Cricket Club and one of the UK's favourite sports.

Bus: 20 minutes



SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE AT DIGBETH

The international office is located at the main Digbeth Campus, in the centre of the city of Birmingham. Many of our international courses are taught from here.

We also offer summer courses in a range of subjects.

The Digbeth Campus has a state-of-the-art auditorium, where many performances are put on throughout the year. In addition you will find a canteen, common room, coffee bar, gym, library, computer rooms and much more.

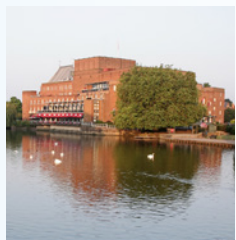
You will find details about which campus your chosen course is taught at in the course information further on in the guide.

PLACES TO VISIT

SOUTH AND CITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL GENERAL FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES IN THE WEST MIDLANDS.

The college is based in the middle of the UK in the city of Birmingham, where there are excellent transport links available making it easy for you to visit other cities and towns around the rest of the country.





Manchester

Home of Manchester United and Manchester City premier ship football clubs and the Trafford Centre for designer shopping.

By train: 1 hour 30 minutes

Bicester Village

Luxury outlet shopping village home to many designer labels and high street brands.

By train: 1 hour

London

There are loads of public attractions including Buckingham Palace, London Eye, Big Ben as well as shopping.

By train: 1 hour 30 minutes

Stratford upon Avon

Visit the birthplace of the playwright, William Shakespeare, with many attractions including museums and the Royal Shakespeare Company, where you can watch a theatre show.

By train: 50 minutes



Liverpool

Liverpool boasts the largest collection of museums and galleries outside of London, including The Beatles Story.

By train: 1 hour 35 minutes

The Cotswolds

Enjoy a cream tea and browse around the shops in one of the famous honey-colour limestone villages in a beautiful rural setting.

By train: 1 hour 25 minutes

The Peak District

Enjoy a walk or picnic in the picturesque and beautiful countryside setting of The Peak District and get a real sense for the British countryside.

By car: 1 hour 40 minutes (to Buxton)



6 REASONS

TO CHOOSE SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM

We know you have a choice of where and what you wish to study, and it can be a difficult decision. So here are a few reasons why you should choose South and City College Birmingham:

1

Success

South and City College Birmingham is one of the largest and most successful colleges with over 13,000 students and some of the highest achievement rates in the country.

2

State-of-the-art facilities

The college has six main campuses that boast state-of-the-art facilities such as an auditorium, media centre, hair and beauty salons, two restaurants, sports facilities, one of Europe's biggest construction centres and fashion workshops.

3

Quality

Accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English.

Accredited by the

for the teaching of English in the UK

High quality English Language courses you can trust.

4

Location

Many of our international courses are taught from our Digbeth Campus, in the heart of the city of Birmingham. From here you will be within easy reach of many exciting places via public transport and also have many places of interest available on your doorstep in this wonderful city.

5

Experience

We run trips and events throughout the year to make sure you have the chance to experience as much of the UK and its culture as possible. You will be personally invited to go on at least one trip each term for free. The college has in the past gone on trips to London, Stratford-Upon-Avon (the birthplace of Shakespeare) and Manchester.

6

Dedicated international office

The college has a team of experienced staff who are here to look after you every step of the way. We will give you ongoing support, right from your application through to the next step after you finish your course.

ACCOMMODATION

THE COLLEGE HAS EXCELLENT LINKS WITH LOCAL ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS. WHERE YOU STAY WILL PLAY A KEY PART IN YOUR EXPERIENCE OF STUDYING IN THE UK.

The international team will provide you with information about the different accommodation options. You will need to consider a number of things including:

- Your budget
- Where you would like to stay
- What kind of accommodation you want
- How you would travel to college – how long will it take and what kind of transport will you use

There are three main types of accommodation available in Birmingham:

Halls of residence £95 - £150 per week

There are a number of halls of residence located near to our Digbeth Campus. These are private en-suite rooms with shared facilities such as a kitchen, common room and laundry facility.

Homestay - living with a family

From £140 per week

Staying with a local family can be a great way to experience UK culture. The facilities available will depend on which family you are placed with. Arrangements can be self-catering or half board (this is where most meals are provided by the family).

Student house £70 - £100 per week

You may prefer to find a shared house with other students, and there are many options in and around the city centre. You will have your own room but will share other facilities with the others in the house.



The college does not own or endorse any residential accommodation. The prices listed above are a rough guide price. When you are ready to explore your options in more detail please contact us for a list of local accommodation providers.

Please note that the college does not accept any responsibility in relation to the actions of the accommodation providers who operate independently to the college.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

ARRIVING IN THE UK

Birmingham airport is only a 15 minute train journey from the city centre. Direct trains from London to Birmingham operate frequently and take around one hour 30 minutes so if you are arriving at London airports such as Gatwick, Heathrow or Stansted you can still travel to the college in a short space of time.

We can assist with:

- Airport collections
- Transport to accommodation
- Welcome packs

Please discuss requirements for groups with us.

ARRIVING AT THE COLLEGE

Our dedicated international team will be on hand to give you a warm welcome when you first arrive at South and City College Birmingham.

The team will be on hand throughout at the international helpdesk at Digbeth Campus to offer assistance in finding the right support for any issues whether it's with the college or another organisation if needed.

Student inductions will include information about:

- Opening a bank account
- Registering you with a doctor, dentist or other health bodies
- Finding out about social events
- Police registration
- Progression advice
- General welfare issues



ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

WE HAVE A COURSE TO SUIT ALL ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEEDS. WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE TO GAIN A RECOGNISED LANGUAGE QUALIFICATION, IMPROVE YOUR IELTS SCORE FOR ENTRY TO A COURSE, OR ARE SIMPLY LOOKING TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH FOR LEISURE.

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GENERAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AWARD: COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

LEVEL: ELEMENTARY AND PRE-INTERMEDIATE

AGE: 18 and over

COURSE LENGTH: Minimum of 8 weeks.

Course length is dependent on visa

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 16

START DATES: Any Monday (September is our primary intake)

ENGLISH LEVELS: IELTS: 0 - 3.5 CEFR: A1 - A2

HOURS PER WEEK: 21

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 20*

LOCATION: Digbeth Campus

*It is unusual for the class size to reach the maximum size before groups are split, but it may occur on occasions.

Summary

All of our English Language School courses seek to develop your English language skills intensively. This course will provide you with the building blocks that you need in order to master the language. Equal time will be spent on developing your confidence in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Description

Your teachers will use a variety of different teaching and learning methods to enable you to learn English and communicate in a variety of situations. To improve your speaking skills you will work on contextualised conversational skills and delivering a short presentation. You will focus on learning tenses and on the accurate use of grammar, pronunciation and broadening your vocabulary for practical real life situations.

You will learn about:

- describing personal interests
- written communication
- meeting people and the language used in typical contextual interactions
- accurate use of English grammar
- British life and culture.

Key areas

This course aims to build up all key English language skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and in particular to:

- increase your confidence in the use of English
- support you in gaining a wider range of vocabulary
- enable you to achieve a greater accuracy in grammar
- allow you to achieve a greater fluency in speaking English and improve your pronunciation.

Term dates are available on our website.

Fees

Course fees vary depending on the number of hours studied per week and the duration of study. Qualifications accredited by Cambridge or City and Guilds are optional and are at an extra cost. Fees do not include accommodation.

Entry criteria

You should be over 18 years of age. Although placement is usually based on recognised IELTS scores, students will be given an assessment on arrival in the UK so that we can accurately record your starting point and map out your learning journey.

Short-term Student Visa (up to 11 months – Initial Assessment in UK).

What next?

Due to the high quality nature of the English Language School, most students who enrol on this programme progress quickly to either Pre-intermediate or Intermediate, or on to vocational options across the college.

INTENSIVE GENERAL ENGLISH WITH IELTS

AWARD: COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE AND UPPER INTERMEDIATE

AGE: 18 and over

COURSE LENGTH: Minimum of 8 weeks.

Course length is dependent on visa

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 18

START DATES: Any Monday (September is our primary intake)

ENGLISH LEVELS: IELTS: 4 - 5 CEFR: B1 - B2

HOURS PER WEEK: 15, 18, 21 or 25

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 22*

LOCATION: Digbeth Campus

*It is unusual for the class size to reach the maximum size before groups are split, but it may occur on occasions.

Summary

This intensive English course for international students is aimed at intermediate level students who want to develop their English skills for better career opportunities, or to go to University. Students will be placed in classes at either Intermediate or Upper Intermediate level.

Description

This course will improve English language skills and prepare students for the IELTS exam and further study. We will help you:

- continue to develop your general English language skills
- by introducing academic English skills at Intermediate level
- gain key academic skills at Upper intermediate level
- improve your IELTS score ready for progression to higher level classes or entry to university
- increase your fluency and confidence in English overall.

Key areas

This course continues to develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to a higher level. You will learn more about:

- exam techniques
- greater accuracy of grammar
- IT based learning
- presenting skills
- communicating in academic situations (Upper Intermediate)
- academic vocabulary (Upper Intermediate)
- how to critically evaluate, research, paraphrase and write an academic assignment (Upper Intermediate).

We will provide you with:

- an initial assessment to identify your starting level
- an individual learning plan which will be personalised to your individual needs and future targets. This will focus on the main areas you need to improve, for instance writing text or speaking in a group
- regular assessments, tutorials and reviews to track your progress
- embassy student progress reports
- college certification following course completion and the option to take accredited qualifications.

Term dates are available on our website. Timetables may be subject to minor changes at times.

Fees

Course fees vary depending on the number of hours studied per week and the duration of study. Qualifications accredited either by Cambridge or City and Guilds are optional and are available at an extra cost. Fees do not include accommodation.

Entry criteria

You should be over 18 years of age. Although placement is usually based on recognised IELTS scores, students will be given an assessment on arrival in the UK so that we can accurately record your starting point and map out your learning journey.

Short-term Student Visa (up to 11 months – Initial Assessment in UK).

What next?

On successful completion of this programme you will either be progressed into Upper Intermediate or Advanced English, or be able to access a number of opportunities in the UK and abroad including access to higher education and work opportunities.

INTENSIVE GENERAL ENGLISH WITH IELTS

AWARD: COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

LEVEL: ADVANCED

AGE: 18 and over

COURSE LENGTH: Minimum of 8 weeks.
Course length is dependent on visa

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 18

START DATES: Any Monday (September is our primary intake)

ENGLISH LEVELS: IELTS: 5 & above CEFR: B2 - C1

HOURS PER WEEK: 21

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 22*

LOCATION: Digbeth Campus

*It is unusual for the class size to reach the maximum size before groups are split, but it may occur on occasions.

Summary

All of our English Language School courses seek to develop your English language skills intensively and this is a high level 21 hours per week intensive programme. It is aimed at students who already have good English language skills but are aiming for high IELTS scores or good academic English skills for better career opportunities or to go to university.

Description

This course will help to improve English language skills. We will help you:

- prepare to improve your IELTS score and to gain entry to university
- develop the academic skills needed at British universities and boost your future career development and prospects
- increase your overall confidence in your use of English language.

Key areas

This course develops your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to a higher level whilst preparing you for the IELTS exam and vocational / academic study or career progression.

We will provide you with:

- an initial assessment to identify your starting level
- an individual learning plan, personalised to meet your individual needs
- regular assessments, tutorials and reviews to monitor your progress
- college certification following course completion and the option to take accredited qualifications
- end of course report and embassy student progress reports.

Term dates are available on our website.
Timetables may be subject to minor change.

Fees

Course fees vary depending on the number of hours studied per week and the duration of study. Qualifications accredited either by Cambridge or City and Guilds are optional and are available at an extra cost. Fees do not include accommodation.

What next?

On completion of this programme students will have access to a number of opportunities, such as entry to higher education or employment opportunities.

Entry criteria

You should be over 18 years of age.

Students will be given an assessment on arrival which will identify their starting point.

Short-term Student Visa (up to 11 months – Initial Assessment in UK. Tier 4 - expected to hold a conditional offer from a university and a recent IELTS certificate at B2 in all 4 components.

PRE-SESSIONAL: ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES

AGE: 18 and over

COURSE LENGTH: Minimum of 8 weeks.

Course length is dependent on visa

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 18

START DATES: Any Monday (September is our primary intake)

ENGLISH LEVELS: IELTS: 4.5/6-7 CEFR: B1-C1

HOURS PER WEEK: 25

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 22

LOCATION: Digbeth Campus

Summary

This course is for 25 hours per week for international students who have a conditional offer for university study, but who do not currently meet the English language requirements.

Description

This course is designed to prepare you for higher level study in a UK university. It will help you to improve both your general English, and in particular, the academic language and skills you need for writing assignments, taking part in discussions, listening and note taking in lectures and reading academic texts.

It will help you to communicate more effectively in academic situations across the four language skill areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Key areas

You will learn:

- study skills – such as effective note taking and research skills
- academic English skills
- how to communicate in academic situations
- academic vocabulary
- how to critically evaluate, research, paraphrase and write an academic assignment
- college certified end of course assessments (university verified) and reports
- embassy student progress reports
- accredited qualifications – optional

We will provide you with:

- initial assessment to find out your starting level – this combined with the IELTS score you require for further study will determine how long you need to study
- an individual learning plan will be created for you
- regular assessments, tutorials and reviews to monitor your progress.

Teaching methods will include:

- IELTS style weekly tests
- presentations
- group discussions and debates
- ongoing assessment progress reviews
- ICT sessions - including PowerPoint and various other decision support applications
- independent learning and skills.

Term dates are available on our website.

Timetables may be subject to minor change. The course length is dependent on visa but we expect students to attend a minimum of 8 weeks. 25 hours per week is the recommended tuition for successful completion. Alternative arrangements (i.e. 21 hours) by negotiation with the International Team.

Fees

Course fees vary depending on the number of hours studied per week and the duration of study. Qualifications accredited either by Cambridge or City and Guilds are optional and are available at an extra cost. Fees do not include accommodation.

Entry criteria

You should be over 18 years of age. Recent IELTS certificate at B2 in all 4 components. Short-term Study Visa (11 months - Initial Assessment in UK). Tier 4 - expected to hold conditional offer for partner university, IELTS certificate (minimum B1 for visa).

What next?

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to access university level courses at a number of institutions in the UK.

HOW DO I APPLY?



STEP 1 YOUR FIRST ENQUIRY

Before starting your application you should read the information about the course and the college so you make the right choice for your needs. Please contact the international office for further information.

STEP 2 APPLICATION

Fill in the English Language application form and send it to the international team along with copies of the following supporting documents:

- Certified copies of relevant academic qualification certificates, including recognised international English language qualifications you have taken.
- A clear copy of your passport cover and your personal details page with your picture visible and copies of any previous visas.

STEP 3 PROCESS APPLICATION

We will let you know we've received your application and then process it.

If you are suitable for the course we will send you an offer letter detailing the start and end dates and fees.

STEP 4 ACCEPTING YOUR OFFER

The offer letter includes details of how to pay for the course. Payment or proof of sponsorship will be required to accept your place.

We will then send you a visa letter.



STEP 5

VISA APPLICATION

You will now need to make your visa application. The college will offer you support with the process or you can have your agent support you. You should read the information on the UK Visas and Immigration website before applying: www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa

STEP 6

VISA APPROVAL OR VISA REFUSAL

If you have been successful, you must notify the college of the outcome as well as the details of your travel arrangements. Scan and send us the copy of the visa page if your visa has been granted.

If the visa is refused then you must send the visa refusal letter to us.

STEP 7

ARRIVAL IN THE UK

You must report to the college's Digbeth Campus upon arrival for induction and enrolment. We will need to see all of the original documentation you previously provided copies of and your passport and visa.

FEES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The fees and entry requirements for all of our courses can be found further on in the guide. Please note the first £250 paid is a non-refundable administration charge and should a refund be made this amount would be deducted from any balance owed to you. Details about our refund policy can be found online. The fees were correct at the time of the guide being printed.

STUDY VISA

TO STUDY IN THE UK YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE THE RELEVANT VISA.

You can study English Language for up to 11 months on a Student Visitor visa. It is important you understand the whole visa process before you apply. The information below will give you an idea of how the current process works for Student Visitor visas at the time of the guide being printed. For details regarding Tier 4 visas visit our website.

STEP 1

CHECK IF YOU NEED A VISA

You can check online at the Home Office website if you require a visa. To find out please visit: www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa

STEP 2

UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS OF YOUR VISA TYPE

For a Student Visitor visa you must prove that you:

- are 18 or over
- have been offered a place on a course in the UK at an accepted place of study
- have enough money to support yourself without working or help from public funds, or that relatives and friends can house and support you
- can pay for your return or onward journey

*UK Visas and Immigration or UKVI (formerly known as UKBA)
A department of the Home Office responsible for visas and immigration

We will consider your application to study English on a Tier 4 Visa if:

- you can demonstrate B1 English
- you have an offer for university/college study and require pre-sessional study to improve your IELTS score

STEP 3

GATHER TOGETHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

When you make your visa application you will need to supply the following:

- a current passport or travel document
- one passport sized colour photograph
- proof you can support yourself and pay for your course e.g. bank statements, scholarship evidence
- details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans

Students from certain countries are required to prove they have had tuberculosis testing.

STEP 4

APPLY FOR YOUR VISA

- You must apply online
- You'll have to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre

To apply visit: www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk

You will be asked to:

- Register an account (you will need an email address)
- Fill in the application form in English
- Pay for the visa fee online (in most cases)
- Print out your form
- Book and attend an appointment at a visa application centre

GET IN TOUCH

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COLLEGE, OUR COURSES OR THE APPLICATION PROCESS THEN PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

Phone: +44(0) 121 694 6235

Email: international@sccb.ac.uk

Online: www.sccb.ac.uk/international



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BIRMINGHAM**

Photo credits via flickr

Elliot Brown (Cadbury World, Edgbaston Cricket Ground and Birmingham Airport)

Neil Turner (Bicester Village)

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE GUIDE

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