

FAQS

What are our teachers qualifications?

All Our teachers are Graduates or Equivalent level and/ or have the following teaching qualifications . CELTA, Cert-TESOL, TEFL/TESOL (ITCand TEFL international- online courses), PGCE in English PGCE in English/modern languages with ELT/TESOL subsidiary and primary education PGCE leading to primary QTS.

Are they from the UK?

- We prioritize qualifications and experience over Nativeness and we hire based on merit.
- Native and Non-Native speakers must have the same level of education, qualifications and experience.
- We take pride in inclusive hiring strategies and we are not biased under the perceived notion that only Native speakers are competent teachers!

We hire teachers who:

- Are British from different ethnicities and backgrounds.
- Are from overseas and have the right to work in the UK.
- Are from Europe and have the right to work on the UK.

Are they Police checked?

Yes, in the UK you cannot work with minors unless you have a clean DBS.

Are they experienced?

We hire under the British Council criteria and requirements. We must have a combination of different levels of experience, and do not discriminate ethnicity, race, age, gender, colour or religious status.

Do you hire non-ELT¹ teachers?

Yes, we do. The British Council has changed the recruitment profile in 2024. This means we can hire teachers who teach in Primary or Secondary education with a PGCE or a QTS and we support them with our CPD sessions (professional development sessions).

¹ Non-ELT means English teachers who do not teach English as a Second language

How can we check that teachers are qualified?

We follow the safer recruitment process from English UK <https://www.englishuk.com/> .

Also, our records are checked by the British Council i.e., in our 2024 Inspection, we had all our temporary onboarding staff/ teacher records checked.

How are students classed?

All students are pretested before arrival so we know the level prior to arrival and we class them provisionally. On arrival they do a speaking Diagnostic test to confirm that they are at the right level.

What happens if a student disagrees with the level?

Students and Group leaders inform the Course Director who checks the complaint with the teacher. If there is a disparity then we move that student up-or down.

How are Teachers prepared?

All teachers are given a thorough one or two day induction about our methodology, academic program, Syllabus and everything needed for them to assume the role (i.e., Scheme of work, Materials, etc.).

How are teachers supported?

Every day the Course Director has meetings with the teachers for questions regarding lessons and support.

We offer mandatory and practical CPD (professional development) sessions to develop teachers skills and knowledge.

The Course Director either spot checks lessons and conducts scheduled observations to help and support the teachers for the purpose of improvement.

We also conduct regular focus groups with the teachers bi-weekly.

What are students offered?

Students are offered all the material needed for the lesson of the day by the teacher.

Students are also given a personal diary to make notes about the lesson of the day. We do not give students books.

How will students know what is being taught?

The 5-level course Overview, the Syllabus, the Scheme of work with the can-do statements and the expected outcomes for every level will be on display in every classroom for the students to check on day to day basis and know the topic of the day.

What type of teaching do students receive?

We deliver communicative type of lessons which means that students are there to practice their oral communication skills: to improve their abilities in various aspects of oral communication for the real world, and to practice and develop the super/soft skills for collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills essential for life in the 21st century.

Why are learners sometimes asked to draw a kitchen or watch videos or design something?

This is part of presenting and it links to presentation skills, which is the communicative approach and in this way oral communication skills are being practiced.

Will students be using mobile phones?

Yes! The teacher allows the use of them for specific tasks, but the teacher is in control of the use. Teachers at the beginning of the lesson keep them in a box and give the phone for the tasks and give them back at the end.

Using mobiles and drawing to present in class, is an engaging and active way of the learning process. It has been always believed that when you engage sb in a task then that person never forgets, and it raises interest.

How do we class?

We class by age (meaning not big age gap), by level and by nationality mix, with a teacher student ratio 1/15 -18. This means we cannot control the classes to be perfectly balanced i.e., perfect Nationality mix, and Level due to the fact that conditions vary every time.

How do we ensure quality in lesson delivery?

We have a Course Director and an assistant course director in every Centre who is trained every year by the Academic Manager/ Andriana Gerondis to support teachers.

During the summer all centres are visited by a qualified roving assistant Academic Manager to support and answer questions and complaints.

How are levels and classes distributed to teachers?

Every class is taught by two teachers. Teachers depending their contract are given 2-to-3 levels to teach so there is rotation, variety in style and level of experience, so that students can benefit from.

What do students receive at the end of the course?

They receive a provisional certificate of Completion and by the end of August they receive their e-Levelled Certificates of Completion in PDF form by the end of August beginning of September.

Some also receive Positive recognition awards to motivate progression and good behaviour in students. They create a feeling of pride and achievement. With every reward a student gets he/she becomes more self-confident, proud, and motivated. Also, parents may discover more about their children and will definitely appreciate this kind of recognition.

What are the excursion or outdoor lessons?

They are add-on 3-hour excursion lessons which are linked to the Syllabus for a better learning experience which are connected to the British Culture.

When do these lessons happen?

During the Excursions as a formalized part of the excursion, students will be given excursion tasks related the places and the attractions they visit.

How are they delivered?

Students in groups of 20 to 25 are led by a teacher to a space where they all can sit down. There they are instructed on a task and given a defined timeframe to complete the tasks in groups and return at the prescribed meeting point. These Groups will be mixed ability, but the purpose here is to work together and learn experientially.