

## ESOL Guidance

ESOL stands for English for Speakers of Other Languages. An ESOL course is for Learners for whom English is not their first language and who need to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. ESOL courses focus on language skills but also include employability, citizenship and life skills such as how to use the bus, what different ingredients are called in English supermarkets, how to visit a doctor or talk to teachers in schools plus CV writing and interview skills. The main aim of ESOL courses are to help people settle into the English-speaking country and be able to get by in everyday life but are more and more being used as a precursor to English Functional Skills if the Learner requires additional support.

ESOL programmes have similar initial assessments to Functional Skills and the programme levels are Entry Level 1 up to Level 2. All Learners will be assessed on entry and work towards achieving the next level on completion of their programme.

ESOL Levels
Entry Level 1
Entry Level 2
Entry Level 3
Level 1
Level 2

FE Colleges offer full-time and part-time and evening ESOL courses for students of all ages. Courses are typically free for 16-18 year olds and unemployed adults however due to imminent changes to the Adult Education budget funding available from the ESFA it is worth negotiating with your chosen FE college for ESOL to be included for your staff/apprentices as part of a complete training programme.

From 1 August 2018, Learners aged 19+ who earn up to £15,736 each year will be able to benefit from free adult courses which include ESOL.

It doesn't matter what qualifications the learners already have, to be eligible for free adult courses they must:

- be in full or part-time employment and earn less than £15,736 a year (they will need to provide wage slips or your last self-assessment form to evidence this)
- want to study a pre-entry, entry, level 1 or level 2 course.

Many colleges also offer ESOL as part of a Level 1 programme for Learners whose current literacy levels mean they are not ready for a L2 Apprenticeships such as ESOL and Introduction to Health and Social Care BTEC Certificate Level 1. These are called ESOL + programmes.

You can also access free ESOL resources for your Learners on

<https://www.esolcourses.com>