

General English Overview



Why study on the General English course?

We aim to prepare you to live, work, travel and/or study and communicate more effectively in real-life English-speaking situations. Instead of using course books we use real-life materials such as online news, films and TV in order to build your language knowledge and confidence when using English inside and outside the classroom.

- You will develop intercultural awareness by exploring culture, media and attitudes in Britain.
- You will have a 'personal tutor' to discuss individual progress and study aims.
- You will be encouraged to develop and use language learning strategies to improve your English independently, away from the classroom.
- Part-time and full-time options available.

Why study at the University of Leeds Language Centre?

The Language Centre is an integral part of the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures. The Centre has extensive experience of teaching international students and preparing them for a wide-range of degree programmes as well as offering English Language courses such as the General English course. We are accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English in the UK. As a student at the Language Centre, you will be able to use the self-access facilities at the Language Zone and benefit from student support services, social activities and leisure facilities on the University of Leeds campus.

Who is the course for?

International students and professionals who would like to:

- develop and activate their English language to communicate in a wide range of English-speaking situations.
- develop their intercultural awareness and participate effectively in British life.
- spend time at a leading British university.
- international students, professionals and international English teachers

What level of English should I be at to take this course?

Levels range from lower intermediate to advanced, and students are usually required to be at lower intermediate / independent level (CEFR B1) or above for this course. The course is not suitable for beginners. Students are given placement tests to ensure they are in a class with other students of a similar English ability.

What are the entry requirements?

Please refer to the [Entry Requirements page](#) on the Language Centre website or contact the Language Centre's Admissions team on langc@leeds.ac.uk to find out the entry requirements for this course.

What will I learn on the course?

The main aim of this course is **to develop your ability to communicate in authentic (real-life) English language situations**. The course will focus on developing these areas:

- **Language knowledge and skills:** Confidence in using English vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation both accurately and fluently (comfortably, without too much pausing or hesitation).
- **Intercultural awareness:** An intercultural awareness of British culture and other English-speaking cultures so that you can interact with English speakers appropriately and effectively.
- **Communication strategies:** Strategies for dealing with authentic texts and situations (such as listening to native speakers) so that you can confidently make the most of living in Leeds and fully participate in an English-speaking community.
- **Independent learning strategies:** Strategies for learning independently so that you can continue to learn English effectively outside the classroom and when you go home.

What are the course components?

1. General English

The aim is to develop your ability to communicate in a range of authentic English-speaking situations. We will work on three areas:

Knowing language	Using language	Taking risks
Understanding and using English accurately, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word and sentence structure • Vocabulary and spelling • Pronunciation 	Understanding, choosing and using language appropriately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherence and cohesion: gist and detail • Genre and function • Formality, politeness and appropriacy 	Communicating in the language, even when it is difficult: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication strategies • Fluency • Non-verbal communication

What will we do in these lessons?

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening
- Language development (grammar and vocabulary)
- Discourse awareness (looking at different ways of using English e.g. blog, conversation, survey)
- Pronunciation

Project week

For one week during each 10-week term, General English classes become 'Project classes' for all students. The aim of this project is to 'activate' English through investigating a topic, speaking to people outside the classroom, working in small groups and sharing your final product (for example, as a film or a presentation). If you are interested in the teaching technique of project work, please see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Task-based_language_learning.

2. Individualised consultations

You will arrange a regular time to meet your personal tutor during the term in order to discuss progress and further study.

3. General English Plus (full-time students only)

This component includes the following options:

- **Reading circles**

You will learn how to read and discuss English texts (stories and articles) to independently improve your English. Each week, you will be given a text and a role (e.g. summariser) before you come to class. Other people in your group will have different roles. Then, in class, you will share your information and discuss your text.

- **Language in Context modules (LinC)**

You will choose 2 x 2-hour weekly modules. For these modules we aim to give you opportunity to learn English through a subject related to your interests, and work with students studying on other courses in the Language Centre. Examples of past modules include: Drama, Music and Society, History, and Engineering.

- **IELTS exam preparation (may not run every term, please check)**

If you are studying for at least ten weeks, you can choose to do the IELTS preparation course.

You will be studying and practising the skills which you need for the IELTS exam. For more information about this exam, see www.ielts.org. Please note that this is a preparation course only; if you wish to do the exam, you can do this in most countries in a test centre.

These classes are for students who are doing the General English course and Academic English for Undergraduate Studies. Please note, this course runs for students on 10-week (or longer) courses only, and is not available for students on shorter courses.

To find out what the course will include as a **part-time** or **full-time student**, see the table below:

	General English	Any course excursions	General English plus	Consultations	Full access to the University resources and facilities <i>including voluntary activities in the Language Zone</i>
Part time students	✓	✓		✓	✓
Full time students	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

How will I be assessed?

Progress tasks take place throughout the term at the end of each unit. The aims of these tasks are to collect and use what you have learnt, recognise the progress you have made and identify priorities for improvement. Typical examples of progress tasks include blogs, discussions, vlogs (video blogs), discursive articles, presentations and creative writing. This range of assessments ensures that the student uses English in a wide range of situations.

Grades for progress tasks are given in detail to the student (and where appropriate, their university) with a CEFR level and personalized feedback so that there is a clear awareness of what you have achieved and still need to improve.

Key information

When is the course available?

The General English course is offered throughout the year with start dates in October, January, February, April, July and August. The minimum course length is 3 weeks. Please see the Fees and Dates document available from the 'Downloads' section of our website for details of course dates and when course options are available. You can study full-time or part time.

Where will I study?

You will be taught by the Language Centre on the University of Leeds campus, which is walking distance to Leeds City Centre. You will also be able to use the excellent campus facilities such as the Language Zone for independent learning and the libraries.

When are the classes and who will I study with?

Classes take place between 9.00 - 17.00 Monday – Friday (see example timetable below). The minimum age for students studying on this course is 18 years old.

Example Timetable (for a full-time course)

If you choose to study the course part-time, then you will study in the mornings only, Monday to Friday.

Times:	9.00-10.00	10.00-11.00	11.00-12.00	12.00-13.00	13.00-14.00	14.00-15.00	15.00-16.00	16.00-17.00
Monday		General English				General English Plus: Reading Circles or IELTS		Independent study
Tuesday	General English				General English Plus: Language in Context modules		Independent study	
Wednesday		General English				Independent study		
Thursday	General English				General English Plus: Language in Context modules		Independent study	
Friday		General English			Independent study			

Please note: this example timetable is provided to give you an idea of the course content and structure on a typical week, and is subject to change. You will receive your timetable in the first week of the course.

What are the tuition fees?

Please refer to the 'Fees and Dates' document, which is available from the 'Downloads' section of the Language Centre website.

What do the tuition fees include?

- All programme and learning materials
- Free e-mail and internet access
- Access to university facilities and services. Please note that for use of the University's Sports Centre on campus, 'The Edge', there will be a user charge.
- Any scheduled course excursions
- End of course certificate

Please note, accommodation costs are not included in the tuition fees. Information about accommodation and the cost is available at <http://accommodation.leeds.ac.uk/>.

Course Excursions

Typical course excursions are to places such as York, Whitby or other interesting places in Yorkshire. These excursions are integrated into the course so you will be expected to use the experience in some way in your classes. Other excursions are often available through the Student Union (costs for these vary) in your leisure time.

Please contact us for more details or to apply for a course:

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General Enquiries: langc@leeds.ac.uk

Applications: elapplications@leeds.ac.uk or visit the [How to apply page](#) on our website.

For more information visit:

www.leeds.ac.uk/languages

Accredited by the



for the teaching
of English in the UK

Important Information

Information provided by the University such as in presentations, University brochures and the University website, is accurate at the time of first disclosure. However, courses, University services and content of publications remain subject to change. Changes may be necessary to comply with the requirements of accrediting bodies or to keep courses contemporary through updating practices or areas of study. Circumstances may arise outside the reasonable control of the University, leading to required changes. Such circumstances include, industrial action, unexpected student numbers, significant staff illness (where a course is reliant upon a person's expertise), unexpected lack of funding, severe weather, fire, civil disorder, political unrest, government restrictions and serious concern with regard to the transmission of serious illness making a course unsafe to deliver. After a student has taken up a place with the University, the University will look to give early notification of any changes and try to minimise their impact, offering suitable alternative arrangements or forms of compensation where it believes there is a fair case to do so. Offers of a place to study at the University will provide up to date information on courses. The latest key information on Language Centre courses, entry requirements and fees can be found at www.leeds.ac.uk/languages. For all other University courses see www.leeds.ac.uk/coursefinder. Please check these websites before making any decisions.