



Intensive English summer programmes for 16-18 year olds



In the heart of Oxford

The pedagogy

Skills in a language are defined by the level of competency in using it, usually measured against mother tongue coherence. First language expertise is rightly associated with clarity of communication and depth of thoughtful expression. This challenges the conventional wisdom of language teaching as accuracy and fluency.

Mastery of a language is only reached when it can be used on an equal footing with one's first language: from small talk to formulating complex ideas, the capacity to debate scholarly subjects, share opinions, convince an audience, exchange spontaneous pleasantries and deliver unprepared presentations on a variety of subjects such as art, literature, politics, religion, sciences etc.

Potent language skills are not achieved by spending hours being taught in the classroom, but through diligently probing into questions such as how to say it, what does it mean, what is a good word, why doesn't a sentence feel right, is mother tongue interfering; and all this within the context of real life issues, both academic and topical (current affairs).

Accommodation

Homestay

Staying in a homestay gives participants the chance to be fully immersed into the local culture, while also being able to practise English in a relaxed and natural setting.

Students broaden their scope in their use of the language and become familiar with expressing themselves in English. Homestay hosts provide meals for students, which allows mealtimes to become an opportunity for students to use their English in real-life situations.

Staying with a local host allows students insights that expands their cultural knowledge alongside the development of their language skills. Homestay hosts are able to offer a unique perspective on the local area and its culture, which enriches the student's time and experience.

The Oxford experience

Weekends can be spent visiting London (one hour by train) or other local places of interest such as Bath, Windsor, Brighton, and Cambridge.

During the late afternoon and evenings, students can explore all that the city of Oxford has to offer such as museums, galleries, walking tours, punting on the river, picnics in the parks, and coffee at the al-fresco cafés and book stores.

The programme content

The real value of this programme of learning is in its retention level. So often what is taught gets quickly forgotten: the active approach followed by tutor guidance ensures that a lot more of what is learned turns into spontaneous reflexes that refines the student's level of fluency.

The concept of the course is anchored around active study. Students are given projects to work on for all areas of their language development needs:

- grammar is not based on exercises but on understanding the rules before time spent with the tutor to sharpen accuracy.
- vocabulary building: students expand their lexicon by researching collocation, synonyms, word patterns/ word families, etc and spending the time with the tutor refining the results of their research.
- reading is by definition an individual exercise which students work on before the tutor checks their comprehension ability.
- writing skills are developed through essay writing on a variety of general knowledge subjects. The essay is marked with the tutor with helpful explanations to improve the next essay.
- listening: podcasts are analysed in the students' own time prior to the time spent with the tutor who will assess the calibre of receptive skills and guide the students towards improved listening techniques.

- speaking: although this is considered as one single skill, the school works on the multiple facets of speaking skills: fluency, pace, pronunciation, intonation, diction within a variety of contexts such as a private conversation, a group discussion, a presentation or a speech. Oratory skills are developed through various forms of exercises that students are asked to practise before the lesson (often the day before the speaking lesson with the tutor): it can be in the form of a negotiation, a presentation, a lecture, etc.
- exam techniques: the course aims at making students exam literate, fully aware of the examiners' expectations. This constitutes a solid map for gaining the relevant competencies to approach the exam with serenity.
- occupational English skills: students nowadays have a limitless palette of options for their further education. This course is devised to allow students to focus on the individual requirements of their chosen future occupation.

Exam preparation option

Students can choose to prepare for the IELTS or the Cambridge exams.

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





Students gain an understanding of the importance of strong communication skills within the context of a successful academic or professional environment.

Course programmes are dedicated to students aged 16 - 26 years because the focus is on the development of skills required for higher education or for career start.

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