

Full-time IELTS Exam Preparation Course

Course overview

The IELTS Exam Preparation Course is designed to help students achieve their target score in the IELTS Academic Exam. The course consists of a carefully-designed programme to help international students develop their language awareness, production and exam skills for every part of the test. Morning classes focus on developing language awareness, accuracy and confidence in speaking. Afternoon classes focus specifically on IELTS exam skills, strategies and timed practice. Basil Paterson Edinburgh students can then take their final exam in a familiar environment.

Before booking we will ask you to complete a placement test and needs analysis. This gives us essential information about your current English level, your target score in IELTS, your strengths and areas to work on. We will then be able to advise you on how many weeks you should study with us before your exam.

Essential information

- Class size: Maximum 12. Average 7/8
- Minimum English level: B1
- Minimum course duration: 2 weeks
- Course start dates: Any Monday of the year
- Minimum age: 16 (NB: The IELTS exam is not usually recommended for students under the age of 18)
- Daily course timetable:

08.45-09.00	Morning Discussion Session
09.00-10.00	Spoken Performance Workshop
10.15-11.15	Language Focus
11.30-12.30	Language Practice
13.30-14.30	IELTS Exam Strategies
14.45-15.45	IELTS Exam Skills Practice

Course content

Morning Discussion Session

This informal 15-minute session allows all students from the college to come together with the Academic Manager to discuss the events of the day. Interesting topics from the daily news are selected as a springboard for conversation and debate. Students are then wide awake for their first class at 09.00!

Spoken Performance Workshop

This integrated skills class is designed to develop students' confidence in spoken English, with particular focus on pronunciation, public speaking and social interaction. Every day a different topic or real-life scenario is chosen to help students develop their speaking skills. This lesson is normally paper-free to encourage as much interaction between students and teachers as possible.

Language Focus

This class focuses on developing students' language awareness and accuracy. Teachers choose relevant and level-appropriate language structures and lexis, with reference to the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR). Students are introduced to the language in an authentic context and then have the opportunity for controlled practice. Class materials are a combination of reputable course books, authentic materials and teachers' original materials.

Language Practice

At Basil Paterson Edinburgh we believe it's not enough to 'know' the language; students need to be able to use it. This class encourages students to use the language they've seen in the previous hour. Authentic speaking and writing tasks allow students to apply what they've studied in a real-world context. The teacher then gives feedback on how well students have used the target language and guides them towards further activities and resources for self-study. Homework will normally be set every night to encourage students to revise what they've studied, and a weekly progress test is set on Fridays.

IELTS Exam Strategies

This class looks at the format, requirements and assessment criteria of the IELTS Academic Exam. Each afternoon students focus on a different skill (Listening, Reading, Writing or Speaking). The teacher will make sure the students know what's required, what to expect on exam day and what the examiner is looking for. They will also recommend strategies to help students succeed in the different parts of the exam and set homework to allow students to consolidate what they've learned.

IELTS Exam Skills Practice

The second hour in the afternoon is dedicated to timed exam practice, followed by self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher feedback. This class allows students to apply the strategies they've discussed in the previous class, develop skills for success under exam conditions, evaluate their own work and develop effective self-study techniques.

Frequently asked questions

- **How long will I need to study?**

This depends on many things, for example your current level of English, whether you have taken the IELTS exam before, what score you need to obtain and how much self-study and practice you do at home. At the booking stage we will ask you all these questions and ask you to complete a placement test so we can recommend a minimum length of study.

- **Do I need to buy a coursebook for the IELTS course?**

No. The teachers will select class materials from different publications depending on the needs of the students in the class, so you don't need to buy a single coursebook. The teachers will lend you coursebooks and provide photocopies as needed for each lesson. We have a range of materials for self-study available to borrow from our Student Study Centre, and our students get a 20% discount from our book supplier if they would like to buy a book.

- **Why don't the morning classes focus on IELTS?**

Our full-time IELTS course has been designed to ensure students develop their language skills in addition to their exam techniques, which is essential for success in the exam. For this reason, morning classes focus on developing speaking skills, language awareness, accuracy and lexical range. If you already have a high level of English we recommend studying in the afternoons only, or converting your morning classes to individual lessons.

- **When should I book the test?**

As soon as possible. Basil Paterson Edinburgh has a limited number of spaces available for each exam. You must book, pay and submit your identity document online as soon as you know when you'd like to take the exam.

- **Is the price of the exam included in the course fees?**

No. You must book and pay for the IELTS exam separately. We can give you advice about the bookings process but it is your responsibility to book the exam and read all the terms and conditions. You can book the exam on our website: <http://basilpaterson.co.uk/exam-centre/ielts-exams/>

- **Where will I take the exam?**

At Basil Paterson Edinburgh. If you are taking IELTS for UKVI, this will be at Basil Paterson Middle School at 65 Queen Street. If you are taking the regular IELTS exam, this will be at 66/67 Queen Street.

- **How long will it take to get my exam results?**

You will get your results 13 days after you've taken the exam. Your results will be available to view online, and you will receive a printed test report form. This will either be sent to your home address or you can collect it from the college.

- **What's the difference between UKVI and regular IELTS?**

There are two main differences between these exams:

1. The UKVI exam is usually for people applying for a UK visa. The 'regular' IELTS exam is usually for EU citizens looking to study at university in the UK, or for UK citizens planning to emigrate to Australia, Canada etc. However, there are exceptions to these rules and it is your responsibility to find out which IELTS exam you need to take.
2. There are different security measures in place for candidates taking UKVI IELTS.

There are no differences between the format, content and timings of the two exams.

- **Will I definitely pass the exam at the end of the course?**

The IELTS exam does not have a pass or fail system. You will get a band score between 0 and 9, which corresponds to levels on the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR). Success in the exam depends on many factors, such as self-study habits, the time you have to prepare, your entry level of English and many other things. We cannot guarantee that you will get the score you need, but we will do everything we can to guide and support you. It's very important that you give us as much information as possible at the booking stage so we can help you set realistic and achievable goals.

- **Are the teachers IELTS examiners?**

IELTS regulations state that examiners should not 'advertise' their examiner status to students. All our teachers are experienced, qualified and supportive.

- **I'm doing the General Training module. Can I take this course?**

The Reading and Writing parts of the General Training module are different from the Academic module. Although many aspects of the IELTS Exam Preparation Course will be useful for the General Training exam, you may wish to book some additional private lessons to focus on the format and requirements of the Reading and Writing sections.