

Part-time English Focus Course

Course overview

The Part-time English Focus Course is designed to help students develop all aspects of their knowledge and use of English language, with a particular focus on speaking skills. In addition to language, we help our students develop 'soft skills' for their lives in an English speaking world. Our classes focus not only on accuracy and comprehension, but also on developing essential skills such as social interaction, self-study, critical thinking and cultural awareness.

The Part-time English Focus course consists of 16.25 hours of class per week, supplemented by at least one hour of self-study per night. We believe that immersion in English is the key to developing your language skills, so classes are held in English in multinational classes. We encourage all our English Focus students to take full advantage of the experience by working hard inside and outside class and by participating in the social and cultural programme with their classmates.

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 motivations, your strengths and areas to work on. We will then conduct an informal speaking assessment on the morning of arrival so we can place you in the most appropriate class on your first day.

Teachers will assess your progress all the time, by reading your written work, listening to your spoken performance and evaluating your performance in class. Weekly assessments are held every Friday. These are designed to assess your progress, help you revise what you have studied and push you to apply new language and skills. Students are also expected to self-assess regularly, evaluating their own progress in relation to their goals. Every Friday learners are invited for an individual coaching session with their teacher. The purpose of these sessions is to provide an opportunity to discuss your own progress and to set achievable goals for self-study.

Essential information

- Class size: Maximum 12. Average 7/8
- Course start dates: Any Monday of the year
- Minimum age: 16 (*Please note: The Part-time English Focus Course is an adult programme. Younger students will be in class with adults and are expected to behave with maturity*)
- 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

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 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.

Frequently asked questions

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

This depends on many things, for example how much time you have available, your entry level of English, the level you want to achieve and your reasons for studying. At the time of booking, we will ask you about your goals, availability, level and motivations, which will allow us to recommend a suitable programme of study.

- **Do I need to buy a coursebook for the English Focus 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.

- **Will I get a certificate at the end of the course?**

If you have attended at least 80% of the course you will receive a certificate at the end. The certificate will state that you have attended a course at Basil Paterson Edinburgh, the course dates, the total number of class hours, how many hours you attended and an informal evaluation of your final level. Teachers will refer to the Common European Framework for Languages and suggest grades for spoken performance, spoken interaction, reading, writing and listening. Please note that employers

and universities will often request formal certification of your English language level in the form of an IELTS or Cambridge exam report and may not recognise the Basil Paterson course certificate.

- **How long do students study at each level?**

Students move at different speeds and there is no fixed time for studying at each level. Progress depends on motivation, self-study habits, learning strategies and language immersion. We expect students to work hard and focus on their goals, but also be realistic about what is achievable in the time they have. Teachers and academic management discuss students' progress all the time, and they will invite students to join the higher level at the appropriate time.

- **How much homework is required?**

Our homework policy states that students should expect at least one hour of teacher-set homework per night. Normally this homework will relate to the work covered in class, consolidating and practising new language and preparing for the following day's lesson. However, we expect learners on our adult courses to take ownership of the learning process and work hard outside of class to fulfill their potential. During weekly coaching sessions students can discuss short-term and long-term goals with their teacher, set themselves weekly objectives and discuss self-study strategies.

- **Are all the teachers native English speakers?**

Our recruitment process does not take nationality into account. All our teachers are qualified, experienced and proficient English speakers.