

## Festival Course

### Course overview

In August every year, Edinburgh comes alive for the International and Fringe festivals, with thousands of performances taking place in venues across the city, including dance, theatre, comedy and the world-famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We harness this energy in the classroom with our Festival Course, which runs from 5th - 23rd August. The course structure mirrors the English Focus programme, combining essential language and skills development and an afternoon Project Workshop inspired by the Edinburgh Festivals. On past courses, students have delivered a performance, led their own guided tour and produced a festival documentary, demonstrating their new-found confidence in a second language. The course is complemented by a full and varied social and cultural programme, with eight activities scheduled per week.

The Festival Course is an intensive programme of 26.25 hours of class per week, supplemented by at least one hour of self-study per night. We believe that full immersion in English is the key to developing your language skills, so classes are held in English in multinational classes. We encourage all our Festival Course 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. The Festival Course is ideally suited for students who have an interest in arts and culture.

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.

### Essential information

- Class size: Maximum 12. Average 7/8
- Course start dates: 5th, 12th and 19th August 2019. Where possible we recommend students book for the full three weeks.
- Minimum age: 16 (*Please note: The Festival 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
13.30-14.30	Reading and Writing Skills
14.45-15.45	Festival Project Workshop

### 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.

### **Reading and Writing Skills**

This class looks at the skills of reading and writing, as needed for work, study and travel. In terms of reading skills, teachers will focus on comprehension, critical text evaluation and setting tasks which encourage students to read widely outside of class, both for study and pleasure. Writing classes will focus on the skills needed for effective written communication, focussing on genre, structure, register and appropriacy. During the Festival Course, teacher will often incorporate topics and tasks related to arts and literature, allowing students to engage with the culture and spirit of the Edinburgh Festivals. In previous courses, for example, students watched a play at the Traverse Theatre and then prepared and published a review on the college blog.

### **Festival Project Workshop**

The second hour in the afternoon is an integrated skills class, designed to allow students to apply the language and soft skills they've developed throughout the programme. At the beginning of the week, students will be divided into groups and asked to work collaboratively, preparing a particular 'product' for the Friday afternoon. The product will relate directly to the Edinburgh Festivals. For example, in previous courses, students have prepared and delivered a performance, led their own guided tour for members of the public and produced a festival documentary, interviewing both Edinburgh residents and tourists. The Project Workshop mirrors the collaboration which takes place in English around the world every day. In addition to English language skills, students develop their problem-solving, interpersonal, research and organisational skills.

## **Frequently asked questions**

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

- **Are the social and cultural programme activities included in the course fees?**

At least four of the eight scheduled weekly activities will be free, including the walking tour on the first day. Other activities may have a small supplement, such as Scottish ceilidh dancing (£6-8), theatre performances (£10-14) and whisky tasting (£10-12. 18+ only). Our social and cultural programme coordinator will always design a programme with something for everyone, selecting affordable activities and negotiating student discounts.

- **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 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.