

The English Language Centre

British Council Accredited

25/26



Life in Durham

Location

Durham, in the North East of England, is ideally located for exploring both the countryside and the coast, and day trips to York, Edinburgh and even the Lake District. In just three hours by train you can be in London, and Newcastle International Airport is located nearby for easy transport links.

Education

UK qualifications are valued, respected and recognised worldwide. Our institutions are ranked among the best in the world and offer you a unique learning experience, which encourages you to read, think independently, question and analyse.

Friendly

Durham is a small city so you'll always see a familiar face. The people of the North East are well known for their hospitality and you'll find there's a friendly and relaxed atmosphere wherever you go. There is a large student population in Durham, which makes the City student-friendly and safe.

Culture

The historic city of Durham is packed full of culture. It is rich in history, with Roman heritage and medieval castles. The city is dominated by Durham Cathedral, which together with Durham Castle, is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Why come to New College Durham?

New College Durham is a great place to study and offers you so much more than a qualification.

- A top performing college in the North East and nationally
- T.H.E. Hub is a new £11million facility, where subjects are brought to life in the most cutting-edge environments available. Our exciting immersive suite allows you to be transported into realistic environments and situations to add new dimensions to learning
- Expert teaching staff and individual student support to ensure you achieve your full potential
- Enrichment activities to complement your learning and to gain life skills.

English as a Foreign Language Programme (EFL)

Overview

This EFL Programme is perfect for any level international students looking to develop their ability to express themselves fluently and accurately in a variety of formal and less formal situations. Students can work towards internationally recognised English Language qualifications in speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

This programme includes general and academic English and we are working to incorporate OET (Occupational English Test). Learners will be provided with opportunities to take part in cross-cultural exchanges and community-based volunteering projects, as well as partnership work with native English-speaking students in the College.

You can study from 5 hours to 20 hours per week.



The programme aims to:

- Give learners the English and academic skills needed for life, study and work in the UK
- Help learners develop general English communication skills
- Support learners as they adapt to both general and academic life in the UK
- Provide learners with an understanding of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation
- Help learners develop an understanding of different varieties of English (academic, formal and informal speech and writing)
- Encourage learners to practise talking about different topics of interest to develop their accuracy and fluency in using English

Teaching & assessment

Each learner receives a full assessment of their language skills at the start of the programme and is provided with a personalised timetable designed to meet their specific needs. Regular assessment throughout the course ensures that learners can progress and achieve their full potential at their own pace. Each learner is assigned a personal tutor who helps guide and manage their individual programme and plans for progression.

Entry requirements and Levels

All students are level tested prior to enrolment to ensure you are placed in the appropriate level class for you.

Levels

We offer classes from Beginner to Advanced (Council of Europe A1 to C1) - No entry requirements

Typical timetable

Morning classes take place from 9.00 to 12.00. Afternoon classes from 13.00-15.00. Some activities take place in the late afternoon/early evening. Please see an example of an individual student's personal timetable below.

	9-12	1-3	4-5	6-8
Monday				
Tuesday	General English	General English		
Wednesday	Preparing for volunteering	OET Preparation		Cambridge exam preparation
Thursday	General English	Academic English		
Friday	General English	General English		

The English Language Centre organises educational visits to help you develop your English and your knowledge of UK life. These visits take place during class time. The International Office organises social trips in Durham and to other places of interest in the UK. These activities take place in the evenings and at weekends. These are priced between £10 - £20 depending on the activity and happen approximately once per month.

Age

Students must be over 16 years old to join our full-time courses. You will study alongside both adults and other young people in your general English classes, but under-18s will also attend special workshops designed to be of interest to you as a younger person (for example to help you stay safe and to prepare for your next stage in life). The parents of under 18s will also receive a copy of the termly reports and will be invited in to College to meet their child's tutor if they are in the UK. If you are under 18 you will need your parent/guardian to sign a consent form for you to enrol onto the programme. This will include information on supervision outside of class times and journeys to and from College.

Class sizes

Scheduled language classes contain no more than 25 students. In addition you will have the opportunity to meet other students and native English speakers in larger group activities.

Tuition Fees:

International students

Hours per week	Fees per week	Per year
19 hours per week	£220	£7500
15 hours (3 days)	£165	£5610
10 hours (2 days)	£110	£3740
5 hours (1 day)	£55	£1870

Home students (including EU with pre settled or settled status)

Age	Hours per week	Fees per week
19+	15.5	£450.00*
16-18	2 hours maths, 2-4 hours personal development and 12 hours English	Free

*If you are not currently living in the UK then a full time programme costs £450.00 per academic year

Exam entry and course materials are included in the fees above, but students often wish to buy their own grammar and course books (approximately £100). Please see the student payment information for more details

www.newcollegedurham.ac.uk/the-college/fees-and-funding/international-student-payment-information

Exam preparation classes

We also offer IELTS preparation, OET and Cambridge Main Suite preparation classes which are full cost and a fee for these apply for all students. IELTS can be taken at nearby centres in Newcastle or Sunderland, and the cost is around £180.

Start dates:

We have a variety of start dates available. Below are the most popular start dates.

4th September, 4th November, 6th January, 3rd March, 6th May. Days and times of study will be confirmed before the start of your course.

To discuss an alternative date please email international@newdur.ac.uk for more information.

All students are given the opportunity to talk to a member of the course team before beginning the course. This can be arranged by Teams or in person.



Holiday	End of Term	Start of Term
Summer 2025	Friday 18 July 2025	Tuesday 2 September 2025
Autumn half-term 2025	Friday 24 October 2025	Monday 3 November 2025
Christmas 2025	Friday 19 December 2025	Monday 5 January 2026
Spring half-term 2026	Friday 20 February 2026	Monday 2 March 2026
Easter 2026	Thursday 2 April 2026	Monday 20 April 2026
May Day 2026	Friday 1 May 2026	Tuesday 5 May 2026
Summer half-term 2026	Friday 22 May 2026	Monday 1 June 2026
Summer 2026	Monday 20 July 2026	

Accommodation Options

Homestay Accommodation

Immerse yourself in the English language and experience the culture of Durham first-hand by choosing a homestay. We provide homestay accommodation, predominantly for international students who are under 18 years old. Our homestay are carefully checked to ensure they will provide you with a welcoming, comfortable and safe environment. Please note that the homestay accommodation is usually a bus journey away from college. No more than four students will be accommodated in any one homestay.

Families live within a one hour commute of New College Durham. Location is chosen based on travel time and not mileage from the College.

Private Halls of Residence (Students 18+)

There are several private halls of residence in Durham City that provide a range of accommodation options such as modern en-suite cluster bedrooms in a shared apartment or a private studio flat. They also have other facilities such as a common social space, games room and sometimes even a gym. Prices start from around £140.00 per week inclusive of bills.

Rented Accommodation (Students 18+)

The majority of rented accommodation in Durham is provided by private landlords or landlord consortiums. You can rent a bedroom in a shared house from around £90.00 per week. Some landlords include certain bills in their rent e.g. water rates, gas, electricity and Wifi. All landlords in the private rented sector in Durham will charge a refundable deposit (this is normally equivalent to one month rent).

For more information on available housing options please contact international@newdur.ac.uk

Transport

There are two bus companies that operate around the North-East. Arriva tickets start from £5.50 daily or £22 weekly for students. Go North East bus tickets start from £4.50 daily or £17 weekly for students. (With valid student ID – this can be ordered via the college's student union office.)

Student Support

We provide international students with a welcoming environment and a wide range of support services to ensure that you achieve your full potential during your time with us.

International Office

Our International Office is committed to providing help and support to international students from as soon as an enquiry is made to the college. We have a designated International Support Officer who will be your first point of contact and will guide you through the application process, visa and immigration regulations, entry requirements, IELTS testing and any other support you need to get the most out of your experience with New College Durham. The International Office has an open door policy for any student questions or support during your college day.

Academic Tutors

Our team of expert teaching staff will ensure that your programme of study will support your development and success, and will provide you with regular feedback on your academic performance.

The English Language Centre

The English Language School will help you to develop your ability to communicate fluently and accurately in English. We will assess your level in speaking, listening, reading and writing and provide you with a tailored timetable to match your individual needs.

ASC (Advice Support Careers)

Our ASC team can offer you expert advice on careers, funding and personal counselling.

Personal Learning Coaches (PLCs)

Our friendly team of Personal Learning Coaches can provide you with individual support for a range of issues including time management, organisational skills and study skills.

Leisure Programmes

The college offers a weekly enrichment and sports activity programme that all students can participate in. Additional cultural leisure activities are organised throughout the year which may incur additional charges of £10-£20 depending on location and transport requirements.



Meet some of the teachers of the English Language Centre



Bridget da Silva

I joined New College Durham in 2017. I took a gap year between school and university and spent the year in Sri Lanka teaching English. I absolutely loved it so when I left university, I trained as a teacher and never looked back!

I hold qualifications in teaching English as a foreign language and have a special interest in literacy development and have taken courses to allow me to help dyslexic ESOL learners with their language learning. I like reading, gardening, walking and watching my children play football and rugby.



Natasha Emmer

I have been teaching at New College Durham since February 2016.

My experience in teaching is vast as I have taught in schools, colleges and universities in the UK and abroad. My first degree is in Mandarin, Cantonese and Japanese and I hold a Masters in Education. I have taught other subjects, such as Chinese and Japanese, but have taught English primarily for 30 years.



Tom Hudson

I joined New College Durham in 2017. I started teaching English when I worked overseas for a non-profit organisation. It was a stimulating and rewarding experience. I enjoy relating to people from other cultures, communicating with them and helping them develop their own skills in speaking, reading and writing.

I hold a CELTA qualification and studied to complete a PgCE. I also have a Certificate in Community Interpreting. In my spare time, I go cycling, walking and running, and coach & play tennis. I also enjoy public speaking.



Alison Phillips

I joined New College Durham in August 2014. Since my first Language Assistant role in Cordoba, Spain, I knew I wanted to teach English, so I completed the CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) programme.

I also hold a DELTA (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) qualification and subject specialisms in ESOL and Literacy. In the past 21 years, I've taught English in Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Sunderland and Queenstown, New Zealand.



Sara Barbin

I joined New College Durham in 2020. I hold a PGCE, a CELTA qualification and a Degree in Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures. I can speak four languages (English, Italian, French and German) and I enjoy relating to people from other cultures. I taught English in Italy as a private tutor, and I have gained experience teaching English, French and Italian in the UK. In my spare time I love cooking and practising karate.

Meet some of the teachers of the English Language Centre



Helen Kirkup

I started teaching at New College Durham in 2024. I have a PGCE in Adult Literacy for native speakers of English, but then went on to qualify to teach English as a Foreign Language by gaining the Cambridge CELTA and then Delta certification. I've taught English overseas (mainly Spain) and in the UK. Before joining the college, I was teaching English for Academic purposes at Newcastle and Northumbria universities. I love meeting students from all over the world and helping them to achieve their goals.

Outside of work I like to spend time outdoors with my family including visiting the coast, walking, cycling, and playing or watching sports. I also enjoy cooking, reading and watching films.



Umit Turkcakal

I joined New College Durham in 2024. I hold a CELTA qualification and a Degree in English Literature. I taught English in state schools in Turkey and Turkish in the UK. I have a special interest in Psychology and enjoy exploring ways to make learning English more natural and stress-free. I enjoy spending quality time with family and friends. My qualifications include BA English Literature and CELTA.



Lynn Bulmer

I have a CELTA teaching qualification and I'm just about to finish a degree in Education Studies with a special focus on positive mental health in the ESOL classroom.

I worked as an English teacher and Cambridge examiner in Italy for almost 20 years, then moved back to the UK in 2018 to work in ESOL delivery. I joined team NCD in August 2022. I love talking to people from different countries and learning about different cultures.



Wendy Castleton

I joined New College Durham in 2013. I began teaching ESOL in 2001 and I have taught ESOL in several colleges in Tyne and Wear, Teesside and County Durham. I have qualifications in education and ESOL. I have also worked as an examiner for Cambridge ESOL and an examiner and trainer for Edexcel. What I love about teaching ESOL learners is their motivation to learn and improve their lives in the UK.

I enjoy gardening, walking and painting in my free time.

Expert teaching...



Bridget da Silva

Qualifications

- >> MA in Arabic
- >> CELTA
- >> DELTA
- >> Certificate in FE Teaching Stage 3
- >> Level 4 Certificate for ESOL Subject Specialists
- >> Level 4 Certificate for Adult Literacy Subject Specialists

Places taught overseas

- >> National Youth Services Council, Sri Lanka
- >> American University in Cairo
- >> Nampula Regional English Resource Centre (teaching and teacher training), Mozambique
- >> Catholic University of Mozambique
- >> Finland (Centria University of Applied Sciences, Kokkola, Finland)



Natasha Emmer

Qualifications

- >> BA Hons Chinese and Japanese
- >> CELTA
- >> PGCE
- >> MA Education
- >> Level 4 Certificate for ESOL Subject Specialists
- >> TEEP Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme
- >> Level 7 SfL Training the Teacher Educators

Places taught overseas

- >> Japan EAP – Ministry of Education, taught English in state schools. Teacher training – Japanese teachers of English
- >> Japan EAP, Business English – Private language schools – taught English to high school children, university students and business English to adults.
- >> China EAP – Private tutor - taught academic English to university students.
- >> Hong Kong EAP EFL – Private language school – taught English to secondary school students and adults.
- >> Australia EFL – Private tutor – taught English to non-native speakers
- >> Finland (Centria University of Applied Sciences, Kokkola, Finland)



Tom Hudson

Qualifications

- >> BSC Hons – Physiology and Biochemistry
- >> PGCE – Secondary level – Humanities (Philosophy and Ethics)
- >> CELTA
- >> Certificate in Community interpreting (Albanian)

Places taught overseas

- >> Albania (Primary school in Fushe-arrez, Northern Albania)
- >> Finland (Centria University of Applied Sciences, Kokkola, Finland)
- >> China (Nanjing university, China – online)



Alison Phillips

Qualifications

- >> CELTA
- >> DELTA
- >> Certificate in FE Teaching Stage 3
- >> Level 4 Certificate for ESOL Subject Specialists
- >> Level 4 Certificate for Adult Literacy Subject Specialists
- >> BA Hons in Combined Languages (Spanish, French and German)

Places taught overseas

- >> International House, Tarragona, Spain
- >> ABC College of English, Queenstown, New Zealand



Sara Barbin

Qualifications

- >> CELTA
- >> PGCE
- >> Degree in Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures (English, German and French), University of Bologna - Italy

Places taught overseas

- >> Self-employed private tutor in Italy



**LET'S
GET
YOU
THERE**