IELTS TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

Birmingham College

Practical aspects

Birmingham College hopes to be able to offer the following opportunities, depending on availability at the time of running the programme and permission.

- An option of sitting a mock IELTS exam before the course
- Lesson observations
- Work opportunities following the successful completion of the course.

Assessments

The course assessment is portfolio-based and includes lesson material evaluation (25%), analysis, evaluation and remedial teaching strategies for sample IELTS writing (25%) and speaking examples (20%), a reflective learner journal (20%) and participation and attendance (10%). (Please note assessment tasks and pass criteria vary according to the programme you follow).

Duration & Attendance

The duration of the programme is up to 30 contact hours, plus time for self study. The Programme is delivered through workshops, seminars, classroom activities and teaching. There are also opportunities for 1-1 tutorials. The sessions are designed to be thought-provoking, interactive and enjoyable. **We ask for 100% attendance.**

Requirements for participation

This programme is designed specifically for teachers teaching the English language. Participants for Option A & B should have equivalent IELTS 5.0 or above. In order to teach IELTS from 5.0 – 7.0+ targets it is expected that you have English teaching experience and are familiar with the metalanguage of language learning and a range of materials.

Participants who do not meet the requirements should join Birmingham College's English Language Programmes.

Award & Awarding Body

Participants who attend the course, complete assignments and demonstrate development through their contributions and self-reflection learner journal will receive the IELTS Teacher Award / Certificate awarded by Birmingham College upon successful completion of the programme.

Birmingham College is independent to IELTS. The IELTS Teacher course and qualification is accredited and awarded by Birmingham College.

United Kingdom

Birmingham

The Schedule and Fees

Please visit the College's website **www.bcol.co.uk**, email **bc@bcol.co.uk**, or contact our local partner for dates and fees.

The College is a leading education provider in the UK and overseas, with British Council accreditation (for the teaching of English in the UK) and English UK membership. The College provides its expertise to schools, centres, universities and colleges in more than 10 countries and has been granted contracts at local and national government level overseas.

Birmingham College is an evolving and innovative college with a growing reputation for excellence in education. The College provides a caring and supportive environment, enriched by a unique blend of academic expertise, forward thinking and a range of ongoing research projects.

CONTACT

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British teaching approaches, techniques, methods, learning materials and assessment strategies.

The IELTS examination continues to grow in popularity as a practical method of evidencing English language competency. It enables students to progress onto higher educational qualifications taught in the medium of English, medical professionals to gain access to NHS posts in the UK and migrants to strengthen visa applications for English-speaking countries.

'How to teach IELTS' Course

The programmes have been designed and developed for individuals and members of ELT Departments interested in teaching IELTS courses effectively in order to support their students and improve their own employability.

There are 4 options*:

A) An Introduction to Teaching IELTS:
This short course is aimed at school teachers and freelance ELT tutors who work with Young Learners or elementary/pre-intermediate adult learners of English and would like to develop an insight into IELTS and acquire skills to help their students shift focus from General English to IELTS and EAP.

B) Progression towards Teaching IELTS (Preparing Students to Achieve IELTS 5.0)
This intensive course is aimed at school teachers and freelance ELT tutors who work with Young Learners or elementary/pre-intermediate adult learners of English who expect to progress onto undergraduate higher education programmes taught in the medium of English. The programme combines IELTS examination preparation with developing the mindset and motivation of learners. It is also suitable for course leaders and Heads of Department with a strong command of English language.

C) IELTS for EAP Trainer (Preparing Students to Achieve IELTS 5.5-6.0)
This intensive course is aimed at school teachers, college or university lecturers and freelance ELT tutors who work with Young Learners (aged 16-18) or pre-intermediate /intermediate adult learners of English who intend to progress onto undergraduate higher education programmes taught in the medium of English. The programme combines IELTS examination preparation with developing the mindset and motivation of learners. It is also suitable for course leaders and Heads of Department with a strong command of English language.

D) Master IELTS Trainer (Preparing Students to Achieve IELTS 5.5-7.0+)
This intensive course is aimed at English language teachers who are working with learners aiming to study on undergraduate or postgraduate higher education courses taught in the medium of English. It is also suitable for course leaders and Heads of Department.

[If the course organisers are of the opinion that an applicant would not benefit from the programme because of their present English language skills and/or knowledge, an 'English for IELTS Booster' programme can be arranged.]*

The Benefits

There are a number of benefits of attending the programmes. The programmes will:

- Teach you how to become an **IELTS preparation specialist** with an understanding of the examination contents and the skills required to achieve specific IELTS bands (Options B, C & D).
- **Focus on understanding and implementing best British educational practices in examination preparation and language learning.**
- **Consolidate and develop your own English language fluency and competency** through interaction and guidance with the expert course instructors and exploring the self-access and authentic materials websites recommended.
- **Offer support and services for Continuing Professional Development**, which can include self-study websites, updates of new publications, books and CPD activities.
- Offer training at very **affordable fees** and should be considered as being **an investment for career development.**

The Aims

- Provides you with the key features for running a successful IELTS preparation course *(Options B, C & D)*.
- Develops your own skills in teaching and professional development, with an emphasis on Learner Autonomy and Assessment for Learning, thereby guiding you to develop your own CPD IELTS teaching pathway *(Options A, B, C & D)*.

- Develops your own English language skills and competencies *(Options A, B, C & D)*.
- Supports you to help your learners and identify strategies that can be deployed to overcome difficulties in teaching the four skills tested in IELTS and the sub-skills required by different levels of students to achieve their desired IELTS targets *(Options B, C & D)*.
- Highlights teaching IELTS effectively, either for all levels or focused at particular IELTS targets *(Options B, C & D)*.

The Structure

(Please note that the degree of detail, range of tasks and theory included varies according to the level of the programme)

Option Workshops for days 1 - 5:
- Overview of IELTS Academic and General Training modules. Learners' attitudes to the IELTS examination.
- The skills and knowledge learners need and the implications for IELTS preparation.
- Overview of published IELTS materials available.
- The importance of 'Assessment for Learning' in education and the role of 'mindset', motivation and learner autonomy.

- IELTS Reading: skills and strategies, including the importance of cohesion & implications for vocabulary teaching and course design.
- IELTS Speaking I: the marking criteria* and skills required. Teaching ideas and examination tips (fluency & pronunciation).
- **Option Workshops**: implications for:
  A. introducing IELTS
  B & **C**. developing skills and introducing learner training activities for pre-intermediate & intermediate students
  D. classroom activities for bands 6.0 to 7.0+ candidates.

- IELTS Writing (Task 2): the marking criteria* and skills/knowledge required. Teaching ideas and examination tips.
- IELTS Speaking II: the marking criteria* and skills required. Teaching ideas and examination tips (grammar & vocabulary).

- **Option Workshops**: implications for:
  A. introducing IELTS
  B & **C**. developing skills and introducing learner training activities for pre-intermediate & intermediate students
  D. classroom activities & self-access suggestions for bands & self-access suggestions for 6.0 to 7.0+ candidates.

- IELTS Writing (Task 1): the marking criteria* and skills/knowledge required. Teaching ideas and examination tips.
- IELTS Listening: skills and strategies for the 4 sections. Teaching ideas and examination tips.
- **Option Workshops**: implications for:
  A. introducing IELTS
  B & **C**. developing skills and introducing learner training activities for pre-intermediate & intermediate students
  D. classroom activities & self-access suggestions for bands & self-access suggestions for 6.0 7.0+ candidates. The use of course books and supplementary materials in course design.

(organised by Option Groups, participant numbers permitting):
The focus on Day 5 is on preparing learners to achieve their desired targets and some activities will be participant-led seminars with the tasks set on previous days.

- Review of the importance of developing learner autonomy and critical thinking skills.
- Review of reading and listening strategies (Options C & D).
- Approaches to extending general world knowledge (Options A & B).
- The transition from General English to IELTS (Options A & B).
- Using authentic past IELTS examination papers in class (Options C & D).
- Identifying learner problems and giving formative feedback for IELTS writing and speaking.
- Common problems in grammar and vocabulary for IELTS.
- IELTS preparation course design.
- The potential of technology-enhanced learning on IELTS courses.
- CPD recommendations for participants.

[Please note that the IELTS marking criteria used on the course is the version in the public domain. Under no circumstances can the Birmingham College trainers refer to confidential IELTS examiner guides.]*