



ESOL NI - E-zine May 2024

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1. ESOL learning opportunities

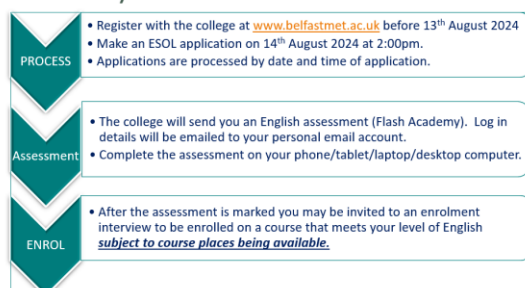
- **Belfast Met confirms date and time for ESOL Assessment & Enrolment registration 24-25 academic year – 14th August 2024 (Wednesday) at 2pm – link for registrations goes live on the Belfast Met’s website.**

- New students should create a Belfast Met account on the college website www.Belfastmet.ac.uk (safe weblink) prior to the application link going live.
- To register on the college website please use the link below **before the 13th August 2024** <https://ebsontrackprospect.belfastmet.ac.uk/> (safe weblink).
- You do not need to come into the college to make your ESOL course application. You can use your personal mobile, tablet, laptop or desktop computer at home.
- The ESOL course code is P01099-AA and the course link will be live on the college website at 2:00pm.

[ESOL Assessment and Enrolment \(belfastmet.ac.uk\)](http://www.belfastmet.ac.uk) (safe weblink)

- Please email ESOL@belfastmet.ac.uk if you have any ESOL course queries.
- **Flow Chart with details on the registration process is enclosed to this E-zine email in different languages: English/ Arabic/ Ukrainian/ Tigrinya/ Amharic/ Somali and Persian (PDF documents).**

Summary



- **List of alternative English Language Courses across the community setting in Northern Ireland – updated 26th April 2024**

You will find an updated list of alternative ESOL courses within the community and voluntary sector enclosed with this E-zine edition (as a Word document attachment). This list was compiled and prepared by Angela Russell and Johanne Martin – ESOL community volunteers, with many thanks.

Alternatively, you can visit the ESOL NI website at

[ESOL NI \(esolwebapp.azurewebsites.net\)](https://esolwebapp.azurewebsites.net) (safe weblink)

Searching for English language training providers and courses on the ESOL NI website:

On this same page, you will find the searching box and different options.

We recommend you start your search by selecting a 'City/Town' and scroll down the options available. Select the location closer to where you live.

To achieve the wider range of results possible per location, you should then click directly onto the blue button called '**Search Providers**'.

DO NOT TRY 'Searching Courses' as some providers listed here don't update their course details regularly and results may not appear.

If you wish to **translate the website into another language** you will find this feature below the ESOL NI logo and just above the searching fields, to the right of the screen.


- **Do you work with refugees who are qualified outside the EU and need support for IELTS or OET tests to help them follow their career path? Belfast City Council initiative:**


If so, Belfast City Council may be able to help and would like to hear from you. We want to gauge demand levels and if you know anyone who could benefit from this support, email economicdevelopment@belfastcity.gov.uk.

In the first instance (but not exclusively), we are seeking to help healthcare professionals living in Belfast (for example, nurses, doctors, health care professionals etc). Both IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and OET (Occupational English Test) are used to test the English language levels of healthcare professionals. (Discretionary support will apply to asylum seekers).



- **Workplus is hosting a webinar to showcase the employers that are using apprenticeships to address their skills shortage vacancies and the increased productivity and loyalty that apprentices bring.**

 Thursday 6 June

 11:00-11:45

 Online

Finding the right talent, with the right skills, is challenging.

With an apprentice, you shape your talent to meet the needs of your organisation and get increased loyalty and productivity.

Find out how here: <https://7111951.hs-sites.com/understanding-apprenticeships> (safe weblink)

- **Are you an asylum seeker or refugee in NI looking to progress into employment or further studies in Northern Ireland? Do you need a proof of equivalency to your qualifications from abroad via an official UK ENIC/NARIC ‘Statement of Comparability’?**

Please contact the ESOL NI Coordination today at iparizzi@belfastmet.ac.uk to find out how you can get fully funded support with the above.

We can help you covering the fees of an official UK ENIC/NARIC ‘Statement of Comparability’, and potential certified translation costs involved (if applicable).



Selection criteria applies and specific documentation required.

2. Funding access – available to learners

- [Belfast Met - Learner Support Fund \(Hardship\) – Deadline for application 31st May 2024](#) (see T&Cs as a PDF document enclosed to this E-zine edition).

The **Learner Support Fund has been reopened** for ***new applicants**. If you are 18 years of age and have exhausted all other available sources to you and feel that you require further financial assistance with any of the following categories, please apply.

- Course Fees
- Additional Living Costs (Full Time Only)
- Travel Costs
- Books and equipment costs (essential/required)
- Childcare Costs

All students must exhaust all other available sources before applying (Such as EMA, Further Education Grant, Student Finance NI, *please refer to the attached Terms and conditions for details on what this could mean to you*).

All applicants must read the Guidance notes/Terms and Conditions before applying (*attached for your convenience*).

To start the application form please [click here](#) (safe weblink) **or you can access it via the [Student Funding canvas page](#)** (safe weblink only available to enrolled Belfast Met students) **and clicking the Learner Support Fund application button.**

Please note: Your progress on completed sections is auto saved to your student Microsoft account on the device you are using. You can stop at any point and return to the form at a later stage if you do not have the necessary information/evidence to hand.

[Term 3 and Final Closing date will be Friday 31st May 2024.](#)

Any applications received by midnight on 31st May 2024 will be assessed and if successful will be back dated to the start of Term 3.

The assessment process can take up to 6 weeks (excluding term breaks) from your submission date depending on application number. As soon as there is a decision made on your application you will be notified in writing to your student email account.

**You can only make one successful application per course per academic year. (If you have already been assisted from an application submitted in Term 1, we cannot assess a second application in the same academic year for the same course. As you would have been assessed for the full academic year in your original application)*

To ensure you are assessed for full entitlement we advise applying as soon as possible. If you would like to get in touch email studentfunding@belfastmet.ac.uk

Please note: The above funding has strict residency requirements, please see Terms and Conditions for more information about Residency eligibility. Unfortunately, Asylum Seekers are not eligible for this fund.

- **FURTHER EDUCATION GRANTS NOW OPEN FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/25 – Education Authority (EA):**

Applications for Further Education Student Finance for the academic year **beginning September 2024**, are now open via the Education Authority website.

Students aged 19 or over, and studying full or part time Level 1, 2 or 3 course at a Further Education College (excluding A-Levels), may be entitled to financial support under the Further Education Grants system, administered in Northern Ireland by the Education Authority on behalf of the Department for Economy

There are a number of eligibility criteria which need to be met in order to be approved for a FE Grant, and these can be found on the [FE Grants section of the EA website](#). (safe weblink)

Students can apply online through the [EA's new student finance portal](#) (safe weblink) until 31 October 2024.

- **The Prince's Trust can provide young people with a Development Award. The amount of each Award depends on your unique needs, future career goals and personal development plans.**

To be eligible for an Award, you must be:

- Aged 16 to 30 and living in the UK
- Studying less than 14 hours a week or not in compulsory education
- Unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week

What Development Awards can support:

- Accredited course fees up to Level 3 (A-level equivalent)
- Tools, equipment or uniforms for a job or qualification
- Job licence fees
- Transport to a new job until your first pay slip

What Development Awards can't support:

- Living expenses, e.g. rent or bills
- Business start-up costs - see [Starting a business?](#) (safe weblink)
- Costs for items that have already been paid for
- Gap year or overseas projects
- Level 4 course fees and beyond (i.e. Higher National Certificate or Diploma)

Get in touch

https://candidateportal.princestrust.org.uk/app/chat/chat_launch/?_ga=2.233319704.762087581.1690802416-1609933584.1685976164


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3. News and Updates - ESOL sector (teachers/volunteers) and stakeholders in Northern Ireland

- **NATECLA Events – Professional Development opportunities for ESOL teachers and volunteers.**

UPCOMING WEBINAR

ESOL FUNDING


 THURSDAY 6TH JUNE

 4PM-5PM

[BOOK NOW](#)

with **BEEJ KACZMARCZYK**
Director of e-Memoir

CO-HOSTED BY

 **NATECLA**

ESOL Research Community

Research into ESOL Beginner Literacy

Date: Thursday 13th June 2024
Time: 16:00 - 17.30
Place: Online via Teams.

The ESOL Research Community are pleased to host two talks where the presenters will share their research on ESOL Beginner literacy. The talks are:

- College Cracking the code – A study in adult ESOL literacy, Charlotte Godwin - Leeds City
- An exploratory case study of literacy issues for beginners adult ESOL learners in Wales, Lucie Gegg - Cardiff and Vale College.

[<<Find out more and register here >>](#)

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- **NATECLA National Conference 2024 – 28th and 29th June.**

With only 2 months to go until the biggest event in the UK ESOL teaching calendar, we thought we would email you with some of the latest updates from the National Conference:

- **DATE:** Friday 28 June (from midday) to Saturday 29 June 2024 (closes at 17:00)
- **VENUE:** Conference Aston, Aston University, Aston Street, Birmingham B4 7ET (within walking distance of Birmingham New Street Station).

Don't forget, if you book before Sunday 31 May, you'll save 25% on all ticket prices.

Find out more & book online

(safe weblink)

[#NATECLA24 - Prices and bookings \(google.com\)](#)

Ticket prices from only £35

If you book before Friday 31 May, you can take advantage of our early bird booking rate (members only):

- Friday only ticket - **£35**
 - Saturday only ticket - **£85**
 - Full weekend residential - **£195**
-

- **ESOL NI and NATECLA Island of Ireland (IoI) English language teaching "Student to Teacher - Teacher to Student": Lived experience reflections on ESOL provision and resources – Thursday – 13th June 2024 – Girdwood Community Hub – Refugee Week 2024.**



Link for registration: <https://forms.office.com/e/TVVtQBKfQ4>

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- **The Bell Foundation Report - ESOL Qualifications and Curriculum Review:**

The Bell Foundation has recently published their ESOL Qualifications and Curriculum Review and summary. Although more relevant to England, the report highlights important messages and recommendations indicating a need for a review.

[Download the report & summary.](#) (safe weblink)

Dr Philida Schellekens, co-author of the report, has recently delivered a webinar addressing the key findings and evidence-based recommendations for change.

- **FutureLearn – potential training opportunity for teachers working with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASCs).**

“Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children” offered by CELCIS in partnership with University of Strathclyde

CELCIS online MOOC. [Protecting Separated Children - Online Course - FutureLearn](#) (safe weblink)

- **Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) ‘Local Links’ survey - To all ESOL providers in NI – formal and informal – community and FE sector.**

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) recently launched a free transport pilot for asylum seekers (Local Links) and is trying to evaluate its impact to inform future policy work in this area. We would be grateful if you could help us by completing this short survey via the link below:

<https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/dfi-1/3e1711ff> (safe weblink)

The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

- **QUB Survey – to be shared with young people – 16 to 24 from RAS background - Below is a special invite you can use to share the survey:**

Are you a young person 16-24 from a refugee or asylum seeker background in Northern Ireland? Tell us what you want to study! This survey is designed for you to have your say about what education opportunities are needed in Northern Ireland.

Fill out the survey [here](#) (safe weblink) **by 15 June**. The survey is in English.

You can also reshare on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) via these links. (safe weblinks)

- **The Law Centre NI updated their Northern Ireland Refugee Statistics for April 2024.**

<https://www.lawcentreni.org/news/northern-ireland-refugee-statistics/> (safe weblink)

- Part A – Asylum
- Part B - Safe Routes.

Also re-sharing the Citizenship For Refugees (one-page) guidance documents:

<https://www.lawcentreni.org/citizenship-for-refugees/> (safe weblink)

- Naturalisation process (adults)
- Children's Fee Waivers
- Life in UK Test
- English Language Requirement

As always, resources are free to download from the website, you can find more resources and briefings here: <https://www.lawcentreni.org/migration-justice-project/> (safe weblink)



<https://esolwebapp.azurewebsites.net/>

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