

Access to ESOL provision



Participation in ESOL funded by the Department for Education

In 2022/23

- **3080** Leicester residents participated in formal ESOL courses funded by the ESFA
- 73% studied at Entry Level
- 18% studied at Level 1
- 9% studied at Level 2

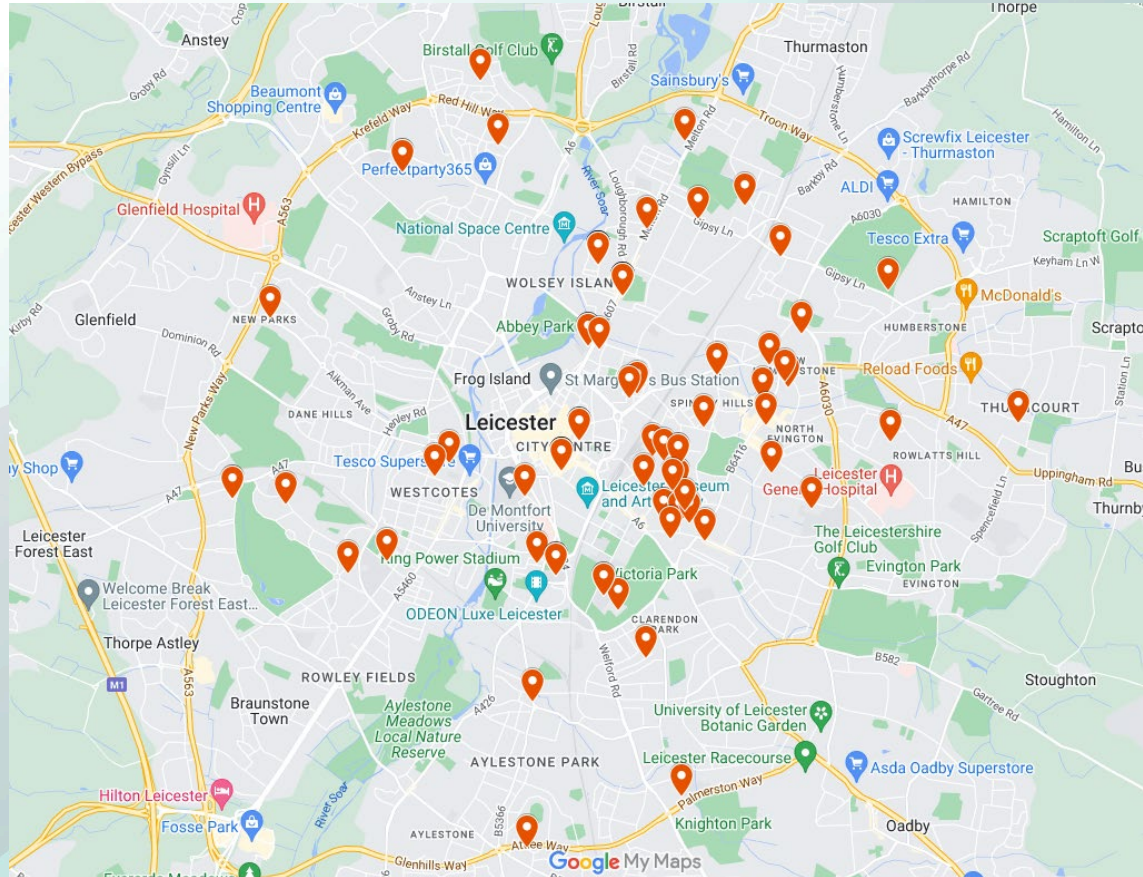
Location of ESOL classes

ESOL is currently available in at least 60 locations across the city.

The main providers are

- Leicester City Council Adult Education Service (36)
- Voluntary and Community Organisations (14)
- Leicester College (5)

[An interactive map is available using this link](#)



Financial barriers to ESFA funded ESOL

Course fees – [complex residency and eligibility criteria](#) limit access to free courses.

- 3 years residency in the UK or EU settled status required.
- asylum seekers waiting for their claim to be processed are not eligible to work and therefore not eligible for full funding but have no income to pay reduced fees.
- People who are economically inactive and not seeking work are not eligible for free courses

Other costs – transport, childcare, lost opportunity to earn



Practical barriers

- Shift work
- Agency work
- Relocation / housing issues
- Caring responsibilities

Online learning can help



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Twin Training	Leicester Adult Education
Courses are shorter and there is also a focus on majority gaining qualifications, whilst on programme	Short courses (20 GLHs) that engage hard to reach and new to ESOL learners. Learners will not achieve a qualification whilst on programme. Longer qualification courses will be offered as part of the progression opportunities
Our learners are mainly those that are economically active. Referrals are likely to be from JCP and other organisations that we work with.	We anticipate that the majority of the learners will be economically inactive.
All courses will be delivered by Twin in its city centre campus.	<p>Courses will be delivered by Leicester Adult Education in the city centre, libraries and community centres across Leicester.</p> <p>Leicester Adult Education will also commission some partner organisations from the voluntary and community sector to deliver courses in different parts of the city.</p>
	Funding for a limited number of asylum seekers to attend mainstream ESFA funded courses.
Residents from all parts of the city are able to join the programme.	Residents from all parts of the city are able to join the programme.
A caseworker will be providing employability support	A caseworker will be providing learners with individual support to remove barriers and raise awareness of existing services and promote further learning and volunteering and employment opportunities.

Other issues

- Not all levels available in all locations
- Lack of Pre-Entry ESOL opportunities and informal ESOL (UKSPF Everyday English is addressing this)
- Courses fill up quickly in September, limited flexible start dates
- Some providers reducing/ceasing delivery due to very low funding rates.
- Lack of tutor capacity
- Different short term funding streams from different parts of government.
- New - East Midlands Councils Strategic Migration Partnership - ESOL Programme Board



UKSPF – ESOL Projects



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UKSPF – Everyday English

- Everyday English is an innovative ESOL programme led by Leicester Adult Education and delivered in partnership with local community organisations aimed at engaging and supporting Leicester residents with limited English skills.
- Enrichment activities as well as bespoke employability and digital skills courses are also on offer to boost participants' confidence and increase their independence.
- A caseworker will be providing learners with individual support to remove barriers and raise awareness of existing services and promote further learning and volunteering and employment opportunities.
- Classes are free and accessible in the city centre in Leicester Adult Education College and in numerous venues across Leicester

Partners

PYCA – Pakistani Youth and Community Association	Shama Women’s Centre	Somali Development Services
Wesley Hall	SOCOPA – Somali Community Parents Association	Sikh Community Centre
Leicester Turkish Community Education Centre	BYCS – Bangladeshi Youth and Community Shomiti	

Activities

- Visit local museums: Leicester Museum and Art Gallery and Newarke Houses
- Volunteering Opportunities: Visits to food bank, animal sanctuary, charity shops
- Take part in a wide range of learning opportunities to maximise exposure and use of English. E.g. pottery, painting, creative writing, music



Feedback

Feedback from learners who took part in ESOL classes and enrichment activities:

- *"I know about many places in Leicester now. I visited many museums and the market. I am more confident to take the bus to go to the city centre now."*
- *"I never ordered in cafes or restaurants before because my husband ordered. Now I order myself."*
- *"I learnt how to speak to people and ask questions because I talked to new people. I can do it now without being scared."*
- *"I learnt something new through these activities. It was really helpful and feel more confident to speak to other people I don't know."*

Feedback from ESOL learner volunteering

- *"I helped others with their learning goals and it also benefitted me in gaining more confidence in my abilities. I would like to work in the future to help people."*

