

English for Speakers of Other Languages (E.S.O.L.)

IMPORTANT NOTE – This guide is only intended to be accurate for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (not for people with other status such as EU Citizens, Migrant Workers, Students, other visa-holders, etc.).

Rules change – Check with the college or charity to see what they can offer you.

Your age matters!

Under-16s are entitled to full-time education in schools.

Under-18s are entitled to full-time education or training (including E.S.O.L.) in a wider range of institutions, including Wolverhampton College. Ask about financial support, which may help with meals, books or transport.

Are you 18? –

If you have refugee status (or ‘HP’ or ‘DL’ status), then you are entitled to the same full-time education or training as under-18s. Ask about financial support, which may help with meals, books or transport.

If you are still an asylum-seeker, then at 18 you may not be entitled – Check with the college. If not, you might get the same as ‘19 or older’.

19 or older? –

Asylum Seekers who have been waiting **more than six months** for a decision on their asylum application can enrol on an E.S.O.L. course (at, for instance, Wolverhampton College, or Wolverhampton Adult Education Service) but may have to contribute towards the cost – Ask the college. Also ask about financial support, which may help with meals, books or transport.

Under six months? – Sorry, you’ll have to pay, or see what you can get free from local charities.

Those who have been given **Refugee Status** can access courses much the same as British Citizens – You need to meet the entry requirements for the course and be able to pay the course fee if there is one. Some courses are free. Others are free if you are receiving certain benefits or allowances, or if the course will help you to get a job – Ask the college. Also ask about financial support, which may help with meals, books or transport.

24 or older? –

Similar to ‘19 or older’, but there are fewer reductions of course fees. Loans may be available for higher-level courses.

[Note that the above information has been put together from a variety of sources, some of which may be out-of-date. “We apologise for any inconvenience!”]

If you are not eligible for free E.S.O.L. and have no money to pay (for example if you have been waiting for an Asylum Decision for less than six months), you can try one of the local Charities. (Note that these organisations are doing the best they can with volunteers, and may not be able to offer ESOL examinations or qualifications). See the next page.....

Local English Classes include:

“The Church @ Broad Street”, Westbury Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1JD. Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (Before the weekly City of Sanctuary Drop-In). The aims are to give learners a knowledge of basic English grammar, spelling and punctuation, and also to give learners the confidence to speak, write and read English. Just come along, or contact tony.selby@btinternet.com .

Refugee and Migrant Centre, Waterloo Road (<http://www.rmcentre.org.uk/>)

Pre-college ESOL, ESOL for work, and ‘Improving your spoken English’. Interview essential to find out if you qualify. 01902-311554. Limited funding may be available for Travel and Childcare if essential and if you qualify.

Free ESOL Beginner's English evening course. JobChange, 10 Red Lion Street, Wolverhampton Town Centre, WV1 4HL. For age 18 and over. Freephone: 0800 122 3510. Email: info@jobchange2007.com . Website: jobchange2007.com . If you cannot leave your children, bring them along.

Migrant Empowerment Group (<http://migrantempowermentgroup.co.uk/>)

Monday and Thursday, 11 am to 2 pm, at Moat House Lane East Community Centre, Wednesfield, WV11 3DD, followed by other activities. 0771 315 6506 (Yolande Dongmo-Noumey).

Ashley Community Housing (<http://ashleyhousing.com/>)

Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 am to 1 pm. Thursday, 2 pm to 4 pm. 01902-429163.

Hope Community Project, Heath Town (<http://hopecommunityproject.org.uk/>)

Tuesday and Wednesday (Must be pre-booked). 01902-556645.

It may be possible for learners to bring their children.

St.Andrew’s Church, St.Andrew’s Close, Hunter Street, Whitmore Reans, WV6 0QZ. Small and one-to-one English lessons by arrangement with the churchwarden, John Wallbridge, 01902-742612. ~~Go there at 9 a.m. on a Tuesday to be assessed and to agree times for regular lessons.~~ **FULL**

Women-only free ESOL at Aspiring Futures CIC, The Old School, 73 Dudley Road, Blakenhall, WV2 3BY.

Thursdays 10 am to 12 noon. Satwant Kaur, 01902-458770. info@aspiring-futures.co.uk . <http://www.aspiring-futures.co.uk/> .

Aladdin’s Education Ltd may be able to offer low-cost E.S.O.L. classes.

(<http://www.aladdineducation.com/home.html> and [HERE](#)) 07507-380036.

For more information about these organisations, including locations and other contact details, see our ["Useful Links"](#) page, <https://wolverhampton.cityofsanctuary.org/useful-links> .

Local Colleges (where you may need to pay) include:

[Wolverhampton College](#) offer a wide range of full- and part-time courses, including [ESOL for 16-18 year olds](#) at Wellington Road, Bilston, and [ESOL for 19+](#) at Paget Road, Wolverhampton. Fees depend on your exact circumstances, so you need to ask the college before you commit yourself. Phone: 01902-836000. Email: mail@wolvcoll.ac.uk .

[Wolverhampton Adult Education Service](#) offer ESOL courses for anyone who’s first language is not English. Enrolment is in September and February, and fees depend on your exact circumstances, so you need to ask the college before you commit yourself. Courses may be available in various locations in Wolverhampton. Office Address: Wolverhampton Adult Education Service, Old Hall Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 3AU (Near the tram stop). Enquiries: 01902-558180. Email: enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk . Website: www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk .

Registered asylum seekers may be able to claim up to 15 hours free childcare each week (for age 2 and over). Ask the college if there is childcare available for younger children.