

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[Note that the above information has been put together from a variety of sources, some of which may be out-of-date.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:

St.Mary & St.John's Church Hall, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AD. Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (During 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. Dependent on availability of teachers.

Refugee and Migrant Centre, 1st Floor, Roma Parva, 9 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4NB. (<https://www.rmcentre.org.uk/>). We offer a range of courses from pre-entry ESOL to ESOL for work. RMC offer free language support to Asylum seekers and Refugees who are not working. To book an assessment, please contact us on 01902-311554, email Steven@rmcentre.org.uk , or drop in to see us on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings between 9am and 1pm.

JobChange, 10 Red Lion Street, Wolverhampton City Centre, WV1 4HL. Free ESOL Beginner's and "Entry Level" English Courses, for age 18 and over. An assessment will decide which is the right course for you. If you cannot leave your children, ask if you can bring them along. Daytime only. Phone 01902-714224. Email: info@jobchange2007.com . Website: <https://www.jobchange2007.com> . Freephone: 0800 122 3510 . Training Manager: Gary Brown, gary.brown@jobchange2007.com .

Migrant Empowerment Group (<https://migrantempowermentgroup.co.uk/>) Coven Lodge, Coven Street, Wolverhampton, WV10 9AX. 01902-901270. 0771 315 6506. Email: meg_2018@yahoo.com

Ashley Community Housing (<https://ach.org.uk/locations/wolverhampton>) 3rd Floor, Derwent House, 42 - 46 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4XB. Email: infowolv@ach.org.uk 01902-429163.

Hope Community Project, 40 Ling House, Long Ley, Heath Town, WV10 0HH. ESOL Classes, 9:30 to 11:30 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays. 01902-556645. enquiries@hope-cp.org.uk <https://hopecommunityproject.org.uk/> It may be possible for learners to bring their children.

Free lessons at St.Jude's Church Rooms, St.Jude's Road (off Tettenhall Road), WV6 0EB. Small and one-to-one English lessons by arrangement with John Wallbridge, 01902-742612. Usually two 45-minute lessons per person each week. As at 11/03/2022, there are vacancies at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 3 p.m. on Thursdays. Location map available at <https://wolverhampton.cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2022/03/WallbridgeEnglishLessons.jpg> .

Free ESOL at Church of St Chad & St Mark, Tuesdays from 10 am to 1 pm. Junction of Owen Road and Lime Street, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, WV3 0EX. In partnership with TLC College.

Women-only free ESOL at Aspiring Futures CIC, The Saplings Building (next to Windsor Nursery School), Parkfield Road, WV4 6EL. Satwant Kaur, 01902-458770 (Mon to Thurs, 9am – 3pm). Mobile: 0748 339 1281. Text: 0755 766 7609. Email: reception@aspiring-futures.co.uk . Website: <https://www.aspiring-futures.co.uk/skills-qualifications> .

For more information about these organisations, 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](#) 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 .

[TLC College](#), Dunstall Heights, Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0LZ. 01902-714433. 9 am to 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Cost depends on level of course and is payable in advance (phone for details). Female-only classes are available. <http://www.tlccollege.org.uk/esol/> .

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.