

Business & Communities

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

Joining Information Session 2021-2022

Classes at Forth Valley College

FALKIRK

Code	Class	Days	Times
ESOLPI/FK	ESOL Level 3	Tuesday and Thursday	11.05am-12.55pm
ESOL/FK	ESOL Level 4	Monday and Wednesday	9.00am - 10.50am
ESOLA/FK	ESOL Level 5	Tuesday and Thursday	9am-10.50am
XESOLI/FK	ESOL Level 2	Tuesday	6pm-8pm
XESOLPI/FK	ESOL Level 3	Tuesday	6pm-8pm
XESOLPI/FK B	ESOL Level 3	Tuesday	6pm-8pm
XESOL/FK	ESOL Level 4	Thursday	6pm-8pm
XESOL/FK B	ESOL Level 4	Thursday	6pm-8pm

ALLOA

Code	Class	Days	Times
ESOLA/AL	ESOL Level 5	Tuesday and Thursday	9am-10.50am
ESOL/AL	ESOL Level 4	Tuesday and Thursday	11.05am-12.55pm
ESOLPI/AL	ESOL Level 3	Tuesday and Thursday	1.50pm-3.50pm

STIRLING

Code	Class	Days	Times
XESOL/ST	ESOL Level 4	Tuesday	6pm-8pm

Language Assessment

Before you enrol for a course **you need to have a language assessment** with a lecturer. This is an interview, and the lecturer will ask you to complete some reading and writing tasks.

To find out the date of the next assessment, contact our Administrator, on 01324 403183 or business.communities@forthvalley.ac.uk

During your assessment you will:

- do a simple reading, writing and/or a grammar exercise
- have an interview with your lecturer
- find out more about the course and the college

After your assessment your result will be emailed to you. We will do our best to place you in a class. If there is no room in the level of class you need we will place you on a waiting list for the next session.

Starting the course

Residency Status

When we email you to offer you a place in a class we will tell you about the information we need so we can find out what your fees will be. The information we need is about your residency in Scotland.

We will ask you to complete a form and to provide evidence of your residency status.

Evidence of residency status includes:

- Biometric Residence Permit and/or Visa
- Previous visas held
- Letter from UK Visa & Immigration
- Copy of your Passport
- Proof of EU/EEA settled /pre settled status - share code via <https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>
- Proof of your asylum / refugee status

Please note that we cannot fully enrol you on the course until we have checked your residency information to find out if you need to pay international level fees.

Fees

The cost of the courses per year is:

Number of classes per week	Cost	International student cost
SQA classes once a week	£ 115.00	
SQA classes twice a week	£ 230.00	
SQA classes at level 5	£ 345.00	

Help to Pay

You may be eligible for a Fee Waiver or in Individual Training Account (ITA) which could help you pay your fees.

Fee Waiver

If you are not working or if you have a low income (see the list below), you can apply for fee-waiver. That means that you don't have to pay for the course, but you need to bring some evidence.

Student Circumstances	Income	Evidence Required
households with only one person	£8,282	Council Tax Notice, P60 or last 3 months payslips
households consisting of a couple without children	£12,395	Council Tax Notice, P60 or last 3 months payslips
households with dependent children/adults living in parental home	£18,977	Child Benefit or Child Tax Credit letter, P60 or last 3 months payslips

You may also apply for a fee waiver if you or your family get one of the following:

- Income Support*, or

- Working Tax Credit, or
- Pension Credit, or
- Housing Benefit, or
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)*, or
- Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance*
- Universal credit

***(evidence must be dated within 3 months)**

or, if the student is in receipt of:

- Carer's Allowance (or carers who have an 'underlying entitlement' to Carer's Allowance but gave up the allowance to, for example, claim their pension), or
- Disability Living Allowance, or
- Severe Disablement Allowance, or
- Attendance Allowance, or
- Incapacity Benefit, or
- Contributory Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)* (this also includes people whose contributory ESA has ended due to the time-limiting nature of this benefit, but who remain entitled to NI credits for incapacity.)
- Personal Independent Payment

***(evidence must be dated within 3 months)**

Or Where the student is a home or privately educated school pupil

Students on a full-time course will receive a fee waiver for part-time and evening ESOL courses.

ITA (Individual Training Account)

You could receive up to £200 towards a single course or training episode per year. ITA funding could be right for you if you're:

- Aged 16 or over
- Not in education or involved in any other SDS funded programme
- Unemployed and looking to get back into work
- Employed and earning less than £22,000 per year
- Resident in Scotland

You can search for ITA courses and apply online. You'll need a valid email address and your National Insurance number to hand.

Once you've applied for funding, they will send you a confirmation email with instructions on how to book your course. To book a place, you'll need to prove your income. They will send details of the documents you can use in your confirmation email.

You'll have eight weeks from the time your application is successful to make a booking.

Visit: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/sds-individual-training-accounts-ita>

About Your Programme

The length of the course

Classes will start in August and September, and all courses will finish in June. Your progress to a higher level may take more than one year. Please speak to your lecturer for guidance.

Qualifications

All ESOL courses have programmes of assessment (tests), which lead to a certificate of qualification from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) called a unit. You will be assessed in class by your lecturer in different activities to check that you have learned and achieved the correct level for your Unit. The assessment is on Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking, and when you complete and pass **all** your assessments for your Unit, the SQA will send you a certificate.

What you will learn

You will study all the basic skills you need in English: reading, writing, listening and speaking. You will learn grammar and vocabulary, and improve your ability to communicate in English in everyday situations.

ESOL Staff

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