## Contact 150 rgb

06 October 2016

**LANGUAGE LIFE AND CULTURE**

**IN THE UK TODAY**

Course provider **The Lake School of English Oxford** (Partner or Receiving Organisation)

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**Course Provider Profile**

The Lake School of English is an independent private English language school, which specialises in professional development for people working in education: teachers, heads of department or school, teacher trainers, managers, project co-ordinators, administrators and other support staff. The School welcomes adults of all abilities and nationalities. Every year, the School teaches hundreds of people from approximately 50 different countries. At any one time there is a total of between 75 and 150 students.

The Lake School of English was established in 1978. It is situated in the centre of Oxford. During the academic year (September – June), professional development courses take place at the Lake School of English. Courses in July and August (except Intensive General English) take place at Oxford University.

The Lake School is accredited by the BRITISH COUNCIL and is a member of ENGLISH UK and QUALITY ENGLISH, a group of established, independent schools who are carefully selected for their quality of student experience and their commitment to excellence in English language teaching. The Lake School also features in the English Language Gazette as an outstanding Centre of Excellence 2010 – 2017.

**Course tutors**

Participants experience a dynamic and communicative style of teaching and receive personal attention from experienced and qualified professionals. Tutors use a wide range of up-to-date resources and integrate online and off-line resources to create a supportive, dynamic learning environment. At the Lake School, there are between 10 and 20 members of staff.

**Course Objectives**

Participants explore the relationship between language and culture. They update their English and improve their cultural understanding in the context of society in the UK today,

**Course methodology**

Sessions are carefully planned to suit the needs, interests and learning styles of the participants and to provide the right balance of skills, content and structure. They are practical and communicative and based on the needs of the participants. Inspiring language improvement sessions are designed to develop teachers’ confidence in English and discover strategies for self-directed learning.

The minimum language level required is CEFR B2, therefore the nature of the course means that participants are often of mixed ability.

In all sessions the tutor indicates recently published subject-specific materials for further reading, also online and offline resources for further research and/or cultural background.

**Course Content**

Participants are asked to complete a pre-course questionnaire. Tutors plan the course to meet the needs of the course participants. Course content typically includes:

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| Ice-breakers and introductions |
| Cultural awareness and understanding |
| Stereotypes in the UK |
| Class structure; vocabulary input and discussion |
| Formality, informality; appropriacy and language in context |
| About the UK, politics and monarchy |
| The UK in figures; work, employment and family issues |
| The history and development of the English language; new words  |
| Regionalism and multiculturalism; the effects on society in the UK today  |
| Collocations and bi-nominals |
| Practical pronunciation; phonemes, stress and connected speech |
| Idiomatic and colloquial expressions  |
| What’s in the news?  |
| Visual and performing arts |
| The British education system |
| The great UK quiz and regional British customs |
| Everyday phrasal verbs |

**The course also includes:**

* 21 hours of session input
* a guided historical tour of Oxford
* a guided tour of an Oxford University college or punting on the River Thames
* evening social activity
* welcome pack and WiFi internet access
* course materials and 1-year’s subscription to the Lake School [e-Learning Centre](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarmel%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CVEEAY9FG%5Clake.etestify.com)
* free refreshments: tea, coffee and mineral water

**Weekly Timetable**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| 09.15 – 10.30 | Welcome | Session | Session | Session | Session |
| 10.30 – 10.50 | Break | Break | Break | Break | Break |
| 10.50 – 12.00 | Session | Session | Session | Session | Session |
| 12.00 – 12.15 | Break | Break | Break | Break | Break |
| 12.15 – 13.00 | Session | Session | Session | Session | Session |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | Session | Cultural Activity | Session | Session | Free Afternoon or Optional Excursion |
| 15.00 – 15.15 | Break | Break | Break |
| 15.15 – 16.00 | Session | Session | Session |

**Outcomes**

Course participants will improve their understanding of written and spoken English, including pronunciation. They will gain confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing. They will also develop a greater awareness of grammar structure and vocabulary, authentic and appropriate language, formal and informal language, so they can communicate more fluently and effectively in English. They will have an enhanced understanding of life and culture in the UK today.

**Follow up**

Participants are required to fill in a course evaluation questionnaire. They are encouraged to continue the international dimension of their experience through social networking. They are invited to contribute to the Lake School Twitter feed: [@EnglishinOxford](http://twitter.com/EnglishinOxford)

Participants receive a contact list of their course tutors and course colleagues. On some courses this also includes details of other contacts made during that particular course, such as editors, head teachers, publishers or guest tutors. Participants receive 1 year’s subscription to the Lake School online e-Learning Centre, to build on and further develop the English language skills acquired in Oxford.

**Certification and Europass Mobility**

At the end of the programme, participants are provided with a certificate of attendance, outlining the number of hours and sessions they have attended. Participants may also bring a Europass Mobility document with them, for validation by the Course Director.

**Fees 2017**

Language, Life and Culture in the UK Today: 350 GBP + 75 GBP Enrolment Fee (1 week)

**Accommodation**

**Homestay accommodation**

Most course participants live in a homestay. It’s a great opportunity to talk and exchange cultures in a friendly home environment. They have their own key and complete independence.

Quite a lot of our homestays host more than one person at the same time. In this case, no guests speak the same first language. All hosts offer welcoming, clean and comfortable accommodation. Guests have breakfast and evening meal with the host/s during the week and all meals are provided at weekends, including packed lunch if requested. Some homes have accommodation with private bathroom. Check in is the Sunday before the start of the course. Check out is the Saturday after the end of the course.

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| **Homestay Accommodation** | **Details** | **Cost per week**  |
| Standard | Single room, half board (full board weekends)  | £170 |
| Standard Twin(only available for people booking together) | Twin room, half board (full board weekends)  | £160 |
| En-suite | Single room, private bathroom, half board (full board weekends) | £210 |
| En-suite Twin(only available for people booking together) | Twin room, half board (full board weekends)  | £200 |

**Hotel or self-catering accommodation**
Some course participants prefer to stay in hotel or self-catering accommodation. We can give advice and suggest some options. However, this must be booked and paid for by the course participant independently.

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| **Accommodation Type**  | **Details** | **Cost per week**  |
| Hotel | Single room, private bathroom, bed and breakfast  | From £420 |
| Self-catering | Furnished one or two-bedroom house or flat | From £450 |

**Other expenses**

A bus pass is approximately 20 GBP per week, giving unlimited travel in Oxford. Participants will also need money for personal expenses and weekday lunches.

**Social activities and excursions**

As well as the cultural and social activities that are included on the course, there are optional excursions to join at extra cost. These half-day or full-day guided tours are to places of interest such as London, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, Windsor and Blenheim Palace. Prices for these range between 30 and 45 GBP.

**Travel arrangements**

There is a direct express bus service from London Heathrow and Gatwick airports to the central bus station in Oxford. The cost is approximately 30 GBP return. A taxi from the bus station to homestay accommodation typically costs 10 - 15 GBP.

Please see <http://www.englishinoxford.com/before_you_arrive/getting_to_oxford.html> for more information about travelling to Oxford.

**Booking the course**

Participants who are applying for Erasmus+ funding must contact the school as soon as they learn the result of their grant application so the course director can confirm availability and reserve a place.

To confirm a place, participants complete an [Enrolment Form](https://www.englishinoxford.com/sys/scripts/registration.php?user=registration) . The school then sends formal confirmation of enrolment and an invoice.

No fees are payable until participants receive funds from their National Agency.

Payments can be made by credit card or bank transfer

At the end of the course, participants receive receipts/statements of fees paid, signed and stamped by the course director.

**Participant testimonial**

*A colleague recommended the Lake School to me. My stay and the organisation of my course have been absolutely marvellous too. It’s the best course I’ve ever attended, and the best teaching I’ve ever experienced! The Oxford University venue was perfect, well-equipped and comfortable, great coffee and canteen! The tours and excursions were interesting so I learned a lot about Oxford and London. My homestay encouraged me to speak and helped to correct my mistakes. Her cooking was excellent and the house was well-connected to the city centre. I felt as if I were in my own home. 5-star programme and 5-star accommodation! -* Jose Maria Fortuny Alentado, Spain 2016

**Contacting the Lake School**

Interested participants can email the Course Director or visit [www.englishinoxford.com](http://www.englishinoxford.com/) for more information on our courses and prices, accommodation options, social activities and life in Oxford.



Carmel Engin, Course Director