

## Birmingham Foundation Academy (BFA) preessional English programme

If you hold an offer for a Birmingham Foundation Academy Programme you may now apply to study on the Birmingham Foundation Academy Preessional English Programme run by the University of Birmingham's English for International Students Unit (EISU). On successful completion of the Preessional you can transfer to the Birmingham Foundation Academy in September 2015 without needing to re-take IELTS. All of our courses will give you greater confidence for your future studies at Birmingham in addition to the opportunity to enter the Birmingham Foundation Academy without taking further IELTS tests.

### Course fact file

**Type of Course:** Preessional english, preessional english

**Duration:** 31 weeks, 20 weeks, 15 weeks, 10 weeks, 6 weeks, depending on your current level of English and the level needed for your Birmingham Foundation Academy pathway.

**Start date:** 28 September 2015, 2 November 2015, 11 January 2016, 25 April 2016, 11 July 2016

### Contact

For all information about this course please contact Esther Reeves:

[e.h.reeves@bham.ac.uk](mailto:e.h.reeves@bham.ac.uk) (mailto:)

+44 (0) 121 415 8492.

## Details

### What you will study

Students benefit from an average of 19 class hours in addition to regular individual tutorials and a social programme.

You will:

- enhance your level of English language to satisfy entry requirements
- improve and develop your academic skills for BFA study
- use English grammar effectively and accurately in academic tasks
- improve your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- use source material effectively in written tasks
- practise strategies for expanding your vocabulary
- use time management and general study skills
- develop social communication skills

More generally, past students have reported increased confidence in their use of language and skills for academic study which better prepares them for the Birmingham Foundation Academy. You can read a student testimonial in the learning and teaching section.

### Length of course

We offer courses of between 6 and 20 weeks immediately before the September and January start dates. However, you may need a longer Preessional English programme, depending upon your current English language level. If this is the case, we offer longer courses of 31 weeks or 42 weeks. Upon successful completion of the programme, you can transfer to the Foundation Academy without needing to take another English language test.

**If you're starting in January 2016**, the dates of available preessional programmes are:

- 11 week course: 28 September -11 December 2015
- 6 week course: 2 November - 11 December 2015

**If you're starting in September 2016**, the dates of available preessional programmes are:

- 42-week: 28 September-16 September 2016
- 31-week: 11 January- 16 September 2016
- 20-week: 25 April-16 September 2016
- 10-week: 11 July- 16 September 2016

**[Find out what length of course you need \(/International/eisu/preessional/english-bfa-length.aspx\)](#)**

### Course assessment

Your grade for the course will depend on grades for work you do during the course and your final score in exams.

## Progression

To complete the course successfully you must reach the minimum final marks required by your intended BFA pathway and have a minimum of 90% attendance. On successful completion of the course, you will progress to the BFA programme without retaking IELTS.

## Accommodation

During your preessional course you will be guaranteed accommodation within walking distance of the university campus. Our student accommodation will allow you to enjoy your life in Birmingham in safe and welcoming surroundings.

**[Further information about our accommodation, including virtual tours of bedrooms and kitchens, can be found online \(/undergraduate/accommodation/halls/vale.aspx\).](#)**

If you have further questions please contact: [living@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:living@contacts.bham.ac.uk) ([mailto:](mailto:living@contacts.bham.ac.uk))

## Fees and funding

### Fees and deposit

To book a place on this course, self-funding students will need to pay a deposit of £450 (this will be deducted from your tuition fee). You are asked to pay us the balance once you have started the course.

The following fees and deposit amounts currently apply:

Course Length	Dates	Fees
31 weeks	12 January 2015 - 18 September 2015	£8,680
20 weeks	27 April - 18 September 2015	£5,600
15 weeks	1 June - 18 September 2015	£4,200
10 weeks	13 July - 18 September 2015	£2,800
6 weeks	10 August - 18 September 2015	£1,680

### Payment options

There are several ways you can pay us.

#### Online payment

You can pay using our **online shop** (<http://shop.bham.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?compid=1&modid=1&catid=289>). We recommend this method, since you do not have to pay any bank fees and the payment happens immediately.

#### Bank transfer

If you pay using a bank transfer, please make sure that you have added enough money to cover all bank charges. If we have to pay any bank charges, we will ask you to pay us these charges back when you arrive.

## Entry requirements

### Academic requirements

You must have an offer for a place at the **University of Birmingham Foundation Academy** ([/undergraduate/courses/fd/index.aspx](#)).

### IELTS requirements

The minimum IELTS you need for this course depends on the BFA Programme for which you have an offer. If you have an offer letter from the University of Birmingham BFA, it will tell you the required IELTS test score needed for entry to the BFA.

Please note that in order to meet UKVI entry requirements you will need to show evidence of attaining at least a B1 level of English in all skills, proven by a Secure English Language Test (SELT). The UK Home Office recently made changes to the rules about English language tests for preessional courses. **Please see our Update** ([/International/eisu/preessional/self-information.aspx](#)).

- **[Find out which BFA preessional course is best for you \(/International/eisu/preessional/english-bfa-length.aspx\)](#)**

## How to apply

To apply for the 31-week, 20-week, 15-week, 10-week or 6-week course you will need to send us the following:

- **[A completed English BFA Preessional application form \(/Documents/students/courses/bfa-english-application.docx\)](#)**
- A copy of your passport
- Proof of your current English level (for example, a copy of your IELTS certificate)

- If a sponsor is paying for you, your sponsorship letter

You can send us these forms and documents:

**By e-mail:** e-mail scanned copies of the forms and your documents to [e.h.reeves@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:\)](mailto:e.h.reeves@bham.ac.uk)

**By post:** send us your forms and copies of your documents to:

**English for International Students Unit,  
EISU, Priorsfield  
University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham  
B15 2TT  
UK**

### Deadline for receipt of applications

The deadline for applications is four weeks before the start date of the course that you wish to apply for. If you are applying after this date, please contact Esther Reeves first at [e.h.reeves@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:\)](mailto:e.h.reeves@bham.ac.uk) to check that there are still places available.

It is then very important that you check you are able to get a visa in time to be present on the first day of the course, as unfortunately students are unable to start the course late. You will also need to check the availability of your flights.

## Related links

[Applying for a Tier 4 \(General\) visa to study \(/International/students/visas/student.aspx\)](/International/students/visas/student.aspx)

## Learning and teaching

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. From the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself. Your learning will take place in a range of different settings, from scheduled teaching in lectures and small group tutorials, to self-study and peer group learning (for example preparing and delivering presentations with your classmates).

To begin with you may find this way of working challenging, but rest assured that we'll enable you to make this transition. You will have access to a comprehensive support system that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who can help with both academic and welfare issues, and a formal transition review during your first year to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support.

**Xuan-Yu Liu (China)** completed a 6-week English Pre-sessional course before going on to a Foundation Programme. "I lacked confidence when I arrived, but I was more prepared for my foundation programme because I did the Pre-sessional. The most useful part of the course for me was learning how to take part in seminars and write academic essays. There are many differences between Universities in China and the UK, especially in academic writing. The teachers helped me a lot and the Pre-sessional gave me an advantage." (Xuan-Yu Liu, 2011).



## Employability

Preparation for your career should be one of the first things you think about as you start university. Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, our Careers Network can help you achieve your goal.

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team (in each of the five academic colleges) who can give you expert advice. Our team source exclusive work experience opportunities to help you stand out amongst the competition, with mentoring, global internships and placements available to you. Once you have a career in your sights, one-to-one support with CV's and job applications will help give you the edge. In addition, our employer-endorsed award-winning Personal Skills Award (PSA) recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

Your Birmingham degree is evidence of your ability to succeed in a demanding academic environment. Employers target Birmingham students for their drive, diversity, communication and problem-solving skills, their team-working abilities and cultural awareness, and our graduate employment statistics have continued to climb at a rate well above national trends. If you make the most of the wide range of services you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

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