



BBSI Certificate Courses in General English

BBSI General English Courses are modular in format so that students can join a course at any time throughout the year and study for periods that suit their personal circumstances. These courses enable students to acquire the language and communication skills that they need. We offer a choice of 4 General English study programmes that vary in intensity to fit a student's particular needs: a 20-lesson weekly study programme (GE 20), a 24-lesson weekly study programme (GE 24), a 30-lesson weekly study programme (GE 30), and a 40-lesson weekly study programme (GE40). The GE 20 and GE24 options are available from Elementary to Advanced levels, whilst the GE 30 and GE40 options are available to those at an Intermediate level in English or above. The courses can be joined on any Monday throughout the year, and can be studied for a period of between one and 48 weeks.

Additional English and Business English Qualifications. Students will develop competent English communication skills. Moreover, those who attend the GE30 or GE40 study options for 12 or more weeks can study for and acquire one of a range of different University of Cambridge ESOL[†] qualifications, depending on their language level: the First Certificate in English (FCE), the Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), or the Business English Certificate (BEC). Alternatively, participants can opt to join our ongoing weekly English Language Workshop[‡] (ELW) at a language level to suit their needs.

The **GE40** programme is a highly intensive course of language study that enables students to maximise their time in England, and to accelerate their learning with a 40 lesson/30 hour weekly programme, which is suited to students with a good Intermediate level of English and above. The course combines a well balanced general language programme of grammar, vocabulary, and language skills development with a study of current affairs and topical events related to life in the UK. The range of the topics is broad, and will provide students with exposure to authentic media sources, and lively discussion on matters including history, literature, government, the Royal Family, politics, health, education, the media, and many others. While the study of authentic materials will further build students' reading and listening skills, the programme will be ideal for those seeking to expand their discussion and conversational skills.

Students are tested and interviewed on arrival at BBSI and are then placed in international classes at a language level to suit their needs. The training methods are functional and practical, and a wide range of effective teaching methods is utilised to suit different types of learner. Our interactive techniques stimulate interest, inspire motivation, increase the efficiency of the learning process and achieve the highest possible levels of language retention. All course options are conducted around a busy social and activity programme.

Course Outlines

English Language Entry Levels:

- GE 20 Course: Elementary-Advanced
- GE 24 Course: Elementary-Advanced
- GE 30 Course: Intermediate-Advanced
- GE 40 Course: Intermediate-Advanced

Course Duration: 1-50 weeks

Course Designations:

GE 20: 20 lessons weekly
GE 24: 24 lessons weekly
GE 30: 30 lessons weekly
GE 40: 40 lessons weekly

Entry Dates: The courses are conducted year-round, and can be joined on most Mondays throughout the year.

Minimum Age: 16 years

Course Structure & Content:

10 lessons weekly in grammar & functions
2 lessons weekly in vocabulary development
4 lessons weekly in reading & writing skills
4 lessons weekly in speaking, listening & pronunciation skills
4 lessons weekly additional speaking, reading, listening & writing skills (GE 24 only)
10 lessons weekly selected from one of the following (GE 30 and GE 40 only)
 * *preparation for the University of Cambridge FCE*
 * *preparation for the University of Cambridge CAE*
 * *preparation for the University of Cambridge BEC*
 * *English Language Workshop (ELW)*
10 lessons weekly in additional speaking skills, conversation practice & debate on current affairs, cultural topics & themes from British life (GE 40 only)

Award: BBSI Certificate in General English

Optional External Examinations* :

University of Cambridge FCE
University of Cambridge CAE
University of Cambridge BEC

Course Objectives. The course objectives are to:

- * develop a sound knowledge of English grammar
- * acquire a broad range of relevant English vocabulary
- * develop effective listening & reading skills
- * build fluency & confidence in speaking & pronunciation
- * integrate our students into living in the UK
- * maximise the learning experience in the UK
- * prepare for Cambridge ESOL examinations (GE 30 and GE 40 only)
- * gain insights into the language & culture of the UK (GE 40 only)

† BBSI University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations

FCE (First Certificate in English)

FCE is an Upper-Intermediate level examination that indicates sufficient proficiency in English to be of practical use in clerical, secretarial and managerial jobs for example, or in the tourist industry, where contact with English speakers is required. FCE is also useful preparation for students working towards higher-level examinations, such as the CAE.

CAE (Certificate in Advanced English)

CAE is the second-highest level of Cambridge ESOL examination and is ideal for those who want to work or study abroad. A CAE certificate demonstrates language skills in a wide range of contexts. The examination is based on realistic tasks, and indicates the ability to use the language in practical situations, such as meetings and discussions.

BEC (Business English Certificate)

There are 3 levels of BEC examination: the BEC Preliminary, BEC Vantage and BEC Higher. All 3 examinations are ideal for students preparing for careers in the fields of international business and commerce, where a good knowledge of English is required to function effectively. BEC certificates are internationally recognised and demonstrate that the holder has acquired an appropriate standard of English in a professional context.

‡ English Language Workshop

The English Language Workshop is designed to provide general language support for those students who are studying our English-language courses and who do not intend to prepare for a specific English or business English examination. The content of the Workshop includes extensive skills practice in professional areas of the language, which is useful for those who need to improve their ability to communicate effectively with others in a professional international environment, or who later decide to acquire a professional qualification.

** Examination fees for those seeking to undertake external examinations are not included in the BBSI course fees.*

The following English language courses are also available at BBSI:

- * Academic English & IELTS Examination Preparation
- * General English, Computing & IT Skills

BBSI English-language courses are designed and structured at different language levels to enable international students to develop all 4 English language skills simultaneously, as well as their knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary. Our system of learning also enables students at an Intermediate Level of English and above to progress to developing their communication skills in academic, vocational or professional contexts.



BBSI General English Courses



Typical Weekly Breakdown

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
GE20	<i>reading & writing skills development</i>	<i>grammar & functions integrated skills practice</i>	<i>vocabulary development practice activities</i>	<i>grammar & functions integrated skills practice</i>	<i>speaking, listening & pronunciation development</i>
	<i>grammar & functions integrated skills practice</i>	<i>speaking, listening skills & pronunciation development</i>	<i>grammar & functions integrated skills practice</i>	<i>reading & writing skills development</i>	<i>grammar & functions development</i>
GE24		All components of GE20 plus <i>additional skills practice listening & speaking</i>		All components of GE20 plus <i>additional skills practice reading & writing</i>	
GE30	All components of GE20 plus <i>ELW (English Language Workshop) or preparation for one of: BEC (Business English Certificate), FCE (First Certificate in English), CAE (Cambridge Advanced English)</i>	All components of GE20 plus <i>ELW (English Language Workshop) or preparation for one of: BEC (Business English Certificate), FCE (First Certificate in English), CAE (Cambridge Advanced English)</i>	All components of GE20 plus <i>ELW (English Language Workshop) or preparation for one of: BEC (Business English Certificate), FCE (First Certificate in English), CAE (Cambridge Advanced English)</i>	All components of GE20 plus <i>ELW (English Language Workshop) or preparation for one of: BEC (Business English Certificate), FCE (First Certificate in English), CAE (Cambridge Advanced English)</i>	All components of GE20 plus <i>ELW (English Language Workshop) or preparation for one of: BEC (Business English Certificate), FCE (First Certificate in English), CAE (Cambridge Advanced English)</i>
GE40	All components of GE30 plus <i>speaking skills speaking skills development on topics from British history, institutions and everyday life</i>	All components of GE30 plus <i>conversation skills general conversation practice on cultural and social themes</i>	All components of GE30 plus <i>discussion and debate discussion and debate on topics from the media and current affairs</i>	All components of GE30 plus <i>speaking skills speaking skills development on topics from British literature, culture and everyday life</i>	All components of GE30 plus <i>conversation skills general conversation practice on cultural and social themes</i>