



English Out There – Policy

A systematic effort is made at ELC to maximise our students' exposure to native speakers outside the classroom. All our staff are encouraged to go 'the extra mile' to encourage and assist students to be in contact with the local community. We are helped by the fact that there are only a few language schools in Bristol, we have caring homestay families, who have been well briefed about integrating their students, and we have a very special relationship with the university.

On arrival, during the welcome talks, we highlight the benefits of integrating with local people. We also follow up during the regular student/teacher interviews. We mention the following:

- For those staying in homestays we explain how to make the most out of staying with British families.
- During the academic year our students are able to join the clubs and the societies of the University. There are over 300, and joining them is the perfect way for our students to make local friends.
- We maintain an up to date list of other local clubs which our students might be interested in joining. (athletics clubs, brass bands, the Bristol operatic society etc.)
- Our students can join the gym at Clifton College including swimming and exercise classes.
- The local churches, temples, synagogues and mosques encourage our students to attend and join in with social events.
- Out of classroom activities are regularly arranged by our teachers including visits to the Courts, photo-trails and local surveys.
- We arrange for guest speakers to come in and speak to our students. Visitors include the University of Bristol, a careers adviser, a local author and a talk on the Bristol Music Scene.
- As part of the social programme, among other things, we arrange salsa classes with local people, pub quizzes, cookery classes, theatre visits and visits to the BBC. We also always take advantage of local events which students can join, e.g. street parties, St Paul's Carnival, the Harbour festival, Upfest street art festival, etc.
- We run a jobs club on Thursday afternoons from 4.00pm - 5.00pm in which students are shown how to contact and arrange interviews with local shops, restaurants and companies and given information about the local job centre.
- Quite a few of our EEA students want to work part-time or full time after they have finished their course and we can advise them and help them to prepare their cvs. Our website also shows them where they have a chance to find work as it lists and gives contact details of many of the places where our students have worked in the past. It also gives them clear instructions how to obtain a national insurance number.
- Voluntary work – There are quite a few possibilities in Bristol (e.g. working in charity shops, for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers or for WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms). Our web site gives full details of what to do.