



ESOL NI - E-zine August 2024

Section1: ESOL learning opportunities

Section 2: News and Updates - ESOL sector (teachers/volunteers) and stakeholders in Northern Ireland

1. ESOL learning opportunities

- **All 6 Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland deliver accredited ESOL courses.**

- **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses** provided by Further Education colleges in Northern Ireland are free for refugees, asylum seekers and other specific categories of displaced migrants.

Please see **attached updated information** on the current opportunities for ESOL learners who wish to apply and enrol with provision across the whole province. It includes alternative accredited and non-accredited opportunities to Belfast based ESOL students who may not have been able to secure an assessment and enrolment slot with the Belfast Met last Thursday (14th Aug).

In addition, the guidance document enclosed contains FE colleges and ESOL NI website information translated to a number of different languages:

1. Arabic
2. Farsi
3. Amharic
4. Tigrinya
5. Somali
6. Ukrainian
7. Pashto (Southern)



- **Girdwood Community Hub – Belfast Met provision 2024/2025:**



ESOL Element
Vocational English for Speakers of Other Languages programme.

Classes starting October 2024
Tues/Thurs & Fri (October to December 24)
9.30am to 12pm

Open to refugees & asylum seekers - ages 16 to 24

Girdwood Community Hub

Assessment and Enrolment on the 14th August (Wed) via link to the Belfast Met website for new ESOL students to the college.

If you are already enrolled with the Belfast Met, please email ESOL@belfastmet.ac.uk to ensure you are considered for this programme. Selection criteria applies.

- Transport support to learners (subject to individual needs).
- Suitable to Intermediate level learners (A2 to B1).
- Including ESOL general assessment* and individual pastoral support to progression routes.

* This is an assessment programme.



ESOL Mixed Ability
Non-accredited English classes with free childcare on-site.

Classes starting 2nd October
Mon & Wed (October to December 24)
9.30am to 12pm

Open to refugees & asylum seekers

Girdwood Community Hub

Assessment and Enrolment on the 14th August (Wed) via link to the Belfast Met website for new ESOL students to the college.

If you are already enrolled with the Belfast Met, please email ESOL@belfastmet.ac.uk to ensure you are considered for this programme. Selection criteria applies.

- Transport support to learners (subject to individual needs).
- Suitable to Pre-Entry and Entry Level 2 English learners (A0 & A2).
- Free childcare provision on-site for children of registered learners, ages 0 to 4.

* This is an assessment programme

Note to Belfast Met ESOL learners: Belfast Met ESOL provision at Girdwood Community Hub is back from October 2024. However, priority will be given to anyone who meets the criteria and is re-enrolling as a Belfast Met student from 2023-2024 academic year (i.e. refugees and asylum seekers, learners with small children ages 0-4, young learners ages 16 to 24 with the appropriate level of English to meet the criteria for the ESOL Element and ESOL Transitions programmes). Once this cohort is re-enrolled accordingly, the currently registered learners taking an assessment with the Belfast Met will be considered for this provision if places are still available. In case of remaining places available after the above process, the additional provision will be advertised for new registrations on a first comes, first served basis.

- **IELTS preparation course and exam fully funded and other opportunities for ESOL young learners will be announced with the September 2024 E-zine Edition. Watch out for the updates!**
- **Tailored online ESOL programme for Afghanistan (ARAP/ACRS) cohorts is being rolled out – currently open for expressions of interest:**

If you have a referral of eligible learners for this programme, please get in touch by email asap – contact iparizzi@belfastmet.ac.uk

We have up to 100 places available across the province. Places will be allocated on a first comes first served basis.

2: News and Updates - ESOL sector (teachers/volunteers) and stakeholders in Northern Ireland

- **Northern Ireland Refugee Job Fair – 17th September**

See below enclosed flyer and the Eventbrite link for registration:

[link to the Eventbrite](#)

There is a QR code people can access on the flyer as well.

**NORTHERN IRELAND
REFUGEE JOBS FAIR**

17 September 2024

11am - 3pm

Central Belfast Location

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER AND LEARN
MORE!





Connect with Employers

Meet a diverse range of employers offering live vacancies across various sectors and professions

Engage directly with potential employers in Belfast and Northern Ireland

Receive Support and Guidance from employment support services

Hosted by



- **CPD opportunity: Why Are So Many Teenage And Child Refugees In The UK Missing Out On Education? (Webinar)**

Time 🕒 4:00 - 5:15

Date 📅 11 September 2024

Location 📍 Online (Zoom)

Who for 🎯 Anyone making or with an interest in policy

Panel 🗣️

- Diana Sutton, Director, The Bell Foundation (Chair).
- Catherine Gladwell, Chief Executive, Refugee Education UK (REUK).
- Angel Nakhle, REUK Youth Advocate.
- Isabelle Sherlock, Senior Policy Advisor, Children's Commissioner for England.
- James Gould, Vice Principal for Student Services and Recruitment, Sir George Monoux Sixth Form College.

Sign up for free

- **Migration Justice Project Sessions: update on changes to the Ukraine Scheme, either in English only, or Ukrainian only.**

The session will cover:

- Closure of the Ukraine Family Scheme
- Changes to the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (including changes to sponsor eligibility)
- Ukraine Permission Extension scheme information
- E-visas and the end of BRPs

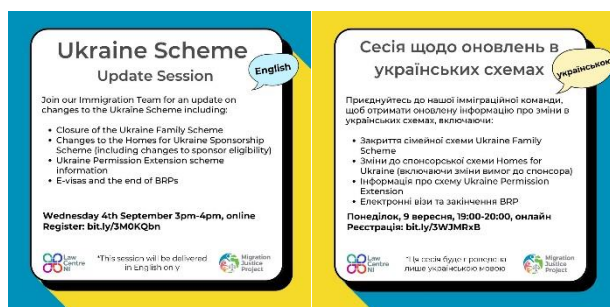
I have attached two flyers attached. Professionals and members of the public are equally welcome. Please share with your contacts/clients.

English only

Wednesday 4th September, 3pm-4pm, register: [//bit.ly/3M0KQbn](https://bit.ly/3M0KQbn)

Ukrainian only

Monday 9th September 7pm-8pm, register: [//bit.ly/3WJMRxB](https://bit.ly/3WJMRxB)



- Counselling All Nations Supporting Wellbeing Event:

‘Ethnic Minorities and Mental Health; Breaking Down the Barriers’.

Belfast City Hall on Monday 23rd September 2024, 10.00am – 3.30pm.

The overall aims of the event are to:

- Highlight Counselling All Nations Services (CANS) role in providing Health and Wellbeing services to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities (BAME) in NI.
- To discuss and explore current Statutory Policies, Procedures, Action and Delivery Plans on the needs of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers across NI.
- Identify how best to move forward with the work of CANS supporting BAME communities across NI in the next three-five years.

The event will also provide presentations from a range of speakers including the Health Minister Mike Nesbitt, Mental Health Champion Siobhan O'Neill, Mayor of Derry and Strabane Cllr Lilian Seenoi-Barr, as well as contributions from the PSNI, Queens University Belfast, Durham University as well as a lived experience story and much more. Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast Cllr Andrew McCormick will open the event.

Please respond to Derbyj@belfastcity.gov.uk to confirm attendance and if you have any dietary requirements by 2nd September 2024.