



English Language and Culture (ELAC)

ELAC is an English language development programme with a focus on aspects of British Culture. The aim of the course is to develop and improve your language and communication skills in terms of both accuracy and fluency. This is achieved through active study of themes relating to British culture. There is a strong focus on speaking and listening skills, with emphasis on varieties of the English language ranging from everyday, colloquial language to more formal, precise language. If you wish to develop your writing skills more fully, you have the opportunity to do this in your project.

The University of Bath is a leading university in the UK and internationally. The content of the ELAC programme benefits from the diversity and atmosphere of the academic environment.

The ELAC Programme is flexible, and you can choose to come for one course (two weeks) or two courses (four weeks). There are common themes which run throughout the Programme, enabling you to develop your language as fully as possible. If you attend more than one course you will also experience different types of projects, and will get practice in using language in different media. Even within one course you will find there is a great deal of variety, and opportunities to explore areas of culture and to develop your English language communication skills in different ways according to your preferences.

The Academic Skills Centre has been delivering first class English language programmes at the University of Bath for over 25 years. The Academic Skills Centre staff are highly experienced and well-qualified English language teachers. They teach by involving you in a number of different ways, so you will be encouraged to participate in various activities in and outside the classroom to help you practise and improve your language as much as possible. All classes take place on the University of Bath Campus. You will be taught in small classes with a maximum of 16 students in each group.

At the end of the course you will be given a Certificate as proof of your attendance. This certificate also gives you credit so that you should be eligible for a discount if you wish to apply as an individual for one of our courses in a subsequent year.

Overview of the ELAC programme

Day one: Welcome and Test

On the first day we will welcome you to Bath and give you a brief course introduction. You will be tested and placed in a class according to your language level. We will also introduce you to the teachers and give you a tour of the campus.

Mornings

Each morning you will have 3 hours of class time. These classes are based on cultural themes and you will be provided with a course book to support your language development.

Aspects of Britain

In these classes you will explore subjects such as Britain's place in the world, the geography of Britain and British institutions, such as the monarchy and education. You might do this, for example, by reading a short text, or watching a video and then follow on with language work and discussion.

Life and People

In these classes you will learn about the way people live in Britain and the British character. You will explore and discuss issues such as traditions, family life and festivals. These classes give you an opportunity to get accustomed to and have practice in using more informal English.

Contemporary Topics

In these classes you will analyse and discuss current news stories, and debate controversial issues such as the environment. As well as being very helpful for developing your English vocabulary, these classes give you practice in critical debate and discussion.

Media and Culture

In these classes you will be looking at cultural aspects of Britain reflected in the media, including television, film and the internet. This will help you practise the language and skills you have developed in the other classes.

Presentations

In these classes you will give a presentation of your specialist project to the other members of your group (see below for details about the project).

Afternoons

In the afternoons you will work on a guided project, focusing on your chosen area of interest. The afternoon programme also includes a weekly lecture and a course-related excursion.

Most afternoon sessions are 2 hours long, although the excursion takes longer, because of travel time.

Lectures

Each week there will be a guest lecture by an expert in an area related to British Culture. In any two weeks there will be one lecture on a general cultural area and another related to one of the specialist areas. Some of the class time will be used in preparation and follow-up work, to help you get the most out of the lectures.

Course Related Excursions

Each week there will be a local excursion related to the course. Some of the course time will be devoted to preparing for the excursion, and to follow-up activities. These excursions are fun as well as educational, cultural visits to places of interest, such as, for example, the Roman Baths or Lacock Abbey (where *Harry Potter* was filmed).

Projects

On the afternoon of day one you will have your first project session, so you will need to choose your project subject area before you arrive. Typical subject areas for projects will be:

- Bath and its Culture
- Academic English
- Professional English
- Life at a British University

In the projects you will be building on the language and culture work you have done in the morning classes, and developing your language and knowledge base in your chosen area of interest.

At the end of the course you will give a presentation about your project. You will be given the option to present in various ways, such as through giving an oral powerpoint presentation, giving a poster presentation, writing a paper, creating a website or making a film.