

Community-based ESOL Volunteer Tutor Training

Part-time

The aim of the Home Learning Scheme is to provide access to learning English for adults (including refugees) permanently resident in the area who are unable to attend a local community-based class or who need additional support to continue with a class.

This is achieved through trained volunteer tutors working once per week on a one-to-one basis in a student's home or other suitable venue.

Course Description

The students

Students are normally unable to get to a class for reasons such as family or work commitments, health, mobility or travel difficulties. Countries of Origin include:

• Pakistan • Bangladesh • China • Turkey

The Tutors

Tutors are people with a variety of backgrounds, interests and ages. Speaking the student's language is an asset but not essential.

Tutors have an important place in providing equal opportunities for people to get access to learning and are expected to have a positive interest in anti-discrimination.

The Tuition

You will meet the student at a mutually convenient time and place, usually weekday daytime in the student's home, though tuition may take place in the evening.

Tuition is offered to a student for nine months at first. However, it is quite possible for a tutor to work longer than this, perhaps with another student. Many tutors work for several years.

Tuition is geared to the individual student and their situation. It could involve spoken and/or written English at a variety of levels in the situations in which a person wants to improve their communication, eg. with health and educational services.

Introductory Training

All volunteers must attend an introductory course before meeting a student. Training aims to develop language awareness, advise on lesson planning, demonstrate basic teaching techniques and inform volunteers about the philosophy, administration and support networks of the scheme. An enjoyable variety of methods are used on the course including group work, discussions, video and demonstrations from course tutors. Assessment is informal through group practice activities.

Training & Support While Working

You will have an individual support worker who is an experienced teacher. You will also receive a newsletter, regular phone calls, attend meetings and training sessions. Books and teaching material are available from our resources room and we pay travel expenses.

Entry Requirements

No formal qualifications or experience are necessary. However, you should have good communication with patience, flexibility, interest in people and the process of language learning.

Qualifications Achieved

None.

Duration

The training course lasts for six weeks. The teaching opportunities will be 4-5 hours per week for nine months including travel, preparation and tutoring.

Start Date

August and January

Fees

There are no fees for these courses. Travel expenses are paid while tutoring.

What can I do next?

The scheme can only offer voluntary teaching opportunities. However, if you are interested in finding ESOL work or studying for professional teacher training, you may benefit from the experience of tutoring and from references given if you spend at least 9 months working with the scheme. You could progress to the CELTA course at the College.

How do I Apply?

Visit our website for an application form and apply online. Alternatively, apply in person through the Student Advice Centre well before the course start date.

For further information please contact Aga Waszak at Agnieszka.Waszak@edinburghcollege.ac.uk