

## Full-time IELTS Test Preparation Course

### Course overview

The IELTS Test Preparation Course is designed to help students achieve their target score in the IELTS Academic Test. The course consists of a carefully-designed programme to help students from all over the world to develop their language awareness, production and skills for every section of the test. Morning classes focus on developing language awareness, accuracy and confidence in speaking. Afternoon classes focus specifically on IELTS test skills, strategies and timed practice. Basil Paterson Edinburgh students can then take their final test in a familiar environment.

We are delighted to say that Computer-Delivered IELTS is now also available at Basil Paterson! This gives students the option to complete the same test with more flexible options and faster results turnover.

Before booking we will ask you to complete a language and writing test. This gives us essential information about your current English level, your target score in IELTS, your strengths and areas to work on. We will then be able to advise how many weeks you should study with us before your test.

### Essential information

- Class size: Maximum 12. Average 7/8
- Minimum English level: B1
- Minimum course duration: 2 weeks
- Course start dates: Any Monday of the year
- Minimum age: 16 (NB: The IELTS test is not usually recommended for students under the age of 18)
- Daily course timetable:

08.40-08.55 Morning Discussion Session (Tuesday-Friday)

09.00-10.00 Spoken Fluency and Interaction

10.15-11.15 Language Analysis and Awareness

11.30-12.30 Communicative Language Production

13.30-14.30 IELTS Test Strategies

14.45-15.45 IELTS Test Skills Practice

### Course content

#### Morning Discussion Session (Tuesday-Friday)

This informal 15-minute session allows all students from the college to come together with the Academic Manager to discuss the events of the day. Interesting topics from the daily news are

selected as a springboard for conversation and debate. Students are then wide awake for their first class at 09.00!

### **Spoken Fluency and Interaction**

Lesson Aims:

- The aim is for students to hone their fluency and interaction skills by focussing on the performance aspect of speaking through a range of spoken activities.
- The lesson focuses on the use of voice through activities concentrated on phonology, intonation and natural speech (colloquial expressions, appropriate register and accents)
- Students study how non verbal communication is used to help interaction and understanding.

### **Language Analysis and Awareness & Communicative Language Production**

Lesson Aims:

- Develop an understanding of language, form, purpose and how to use.
- Demonstrate an ability to communicate using new and existing language.
- Increase fluency and accuracy in English.
- Develop an understanding of register, pronunciation and complex structures.

### **IELTS Test and Skills Practice**

Lesson Aims:

- Develop strategies to succeed in chosen test.
- Increase awareness of the test and types of tasks involved.
- Learn to apply language acquired in morning classes as well as existing knowledge to test strategies.

## **Frequently asked questions**

- **How long will I need to study?**

This depends on many things, for example your current level of English, whether you have taken the IELTS test before, what score you need to obtain and how much self-study and practice you do at home. At the booking stage we will ask you all these questions and ask you to complete a placement test so we can recommend a minimum length of study.

- **Do I need to buy a coursebook for the IELTS course?**

No. The teachers will select class materials from different publications depending on the needs of the students in the class, so you don't need to buy a single coursebook. The teachers will lend you coursebooks and provide photocopies as needed for each lesson. We have a range of materials for self-study available to borrow from our Student Study Centre, and our students get a 20% discount from our book supplier if they would like to buy a book.

- **Why don't the morning classes focus on IELTS?**

Our full-time IELTS course has been designed to ensure students develop their language skills in addition to their test techniques, which is essential for success in the test. For this reason, morning classes focus on developing speaking skills, language awareness, accuracy and lexical range. If you already have a high level of English we recommend studying in the afternoons only, or converting your morning classes to individual lessons.

- **When should I book the test?**

As soon as possible. Basil Paterson Edinburgh has a limited number of spaces available for each test. You must book, pay and submit your identity document online as soon as you know when you'd like to take the test.

- **Is the price of the test included in the course fees?**

No. You must book and pay for the IELTS test separately. We can give you advice about the bookings process but it is your responsibility to book the test and read all the terms and conditions. You can book the test on our website: <http://basilpaterson.co.uk/exam-centre/ielts-exams/>

- **Where will I take the test?**

At Basil Paterson Edinburgh. If you are taking IELTS for UKVI, this will be at Basil Paterson Middle School at 65 Queen Street. If you are taking the regular IELTS test, this will be at 66/67 Queen Street.

- **How long will it take to get my test results?**

You will get your results 13 days after you've taken the test. Your results will be available to view online, and you will receive a printed test report form. This will either be sent to your home address or you can collect it from the college. If you are sitting Computer-Delivered IELTS, test-takers will receive their results within 5-7 days.

- **What's the difference between UKVI and regular IELTS?**

There are two main differences between these tests:

1. The UKVI test is usually for test-takers applying for a UK visa. The 'regular' IELTS test is usually for EU citizens looking to study at university in the UK, or for UK citizens planning to emigrate to Australia, Canada etc. However, there are exceptions to these rules and it is your responsibility to find out which IELTS test you need to take.
2. There are different security measures in place for candidates taking UKVI IELTS.

There are no differences between the format, content and timings of the two tests.

- **Will I definitely pass the test at the end of the course?**

The IELTS test does not have a pass or fail system. You will get a band score between 0 and 9, which corresponds to levels on the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR). Success in the test depends on many factors, such as self-study habits, the time you have to prepare, your entry level of English and many other things. We cannot guarantee that you will get the score you need, but we will do everything we can to guide and support you. It's very important that you give us as much information as possible at the booking stage so we can help you set realistic and achievable goals.

- **Are the teachers IELTS examiners?**

IELTS regulations state that examiners should not 'advertise' their examiner status to students. All our teachers are experienced, qualified and supportive.

- **I'm doing the General Training module. Can I take this course?**

The Reading and Writing sections of the General Training module are different from the Academic module. Although many aspects of the IELTS Test Preparation Course will be useful for the General Training test, you may wish to book some additional private lessons to focus on the format and requirements of the Reading and Writing sections.