Break down the language barrier
and take your Academic English to a new level

Spring Update 2019
WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM!

Are you an International student whose first language is not English? Do you wish to develop your skills in English for academic purposes?

Are you an undergraduate student doing a first degree or a postgraduate student doing a higher degree?

Do you want access to online resources, one-to-one support, or to join a small class?

Develop your skills and confidence in academic English with Birmingham International Academy!

Discover Academic English at Birmingham International Academy and access a range of flexible learning opportunities:

- Self-assessment of your current academic English
- Lunchtime classes, drop ins and bookable individual tutorials and workshops
- Short courses for thesis writing
- Online independent learning materials
- Partners’ English classes
- Improvement in exam taking techniques

Self-enrol on the BIA Academic English Canvas course and receive the latest information on timetables, rooms, Lunchtime English and Workshop English and how to book.

Watch this space

BIA Academic English Canvas self-enrol link: canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/PDWJ8A
Contents

- e-English 4
- Assess your Academic English! 4
- 1–1 English 5
- AskEnglish! 5
- Lunchtime English 6
- Lunchtime English Timetables 7
- Workshop English 10
- Workshop English Timetable 11
- Synthesise for Success: Summarise don’t plagiarise! 12
- Exam skills 13
- Thesis Writing: Courses for PhD (PGR) and Masters (PGT) students 13
- Partners’ English 14
- Day Trips 14
- Campus map 15

Good communication in English is the key to academic success. Whatever your language needs or level, the Birmingham International Academy is here to help all year round. Take the next steps in your Academic English with our flexible programme designed to build your skills and increase your confidence. Our classes are taught by experts in Academic English – just sign up!

Hayley Maxwell, Director of English for Academic Purposes

Any questions?
Contact: bia@contacts.bham.ac.uk

The Birmingham International Academy, Priorsfield, G18
Assess Your Academic English!

Check your strengths and weaknesses in English: test your skills in academic listening, reading and writing and your knowledge of grammar and vocabulary with **Assess Your Academic English!**

You will be able to find areas for improvement and develop skills in proofreading, paraphrasing, using citation and Harvard referencing.

Using the Assess Your Academic English! tool, identify which of the BIA’s Academic English services best suit your needs. The results of the test do not appear on any module grades or transcripts.

**Online:** All you need is your University username and password to access the self-enrol link: [canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/XE6DMD](canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/XE6DMD)

Access innovative and flexible digital learning and take your English to the next level at your own pace and in your own time.

- **From Reading into Writing** An online interactive multimedia Canvas course with reading texts, activities, quizzes and discussion forums.

- **English for Academic Purposes Toolkit** Activity based learning and practice you can dip in and out of at a time which suits you.

- **British Academic Cultural Guides** Find out about the culture of your new academic environment in our fun and enjoyable e-guides.

**Online:** All you need is your University username and password to access the self-enrol links for the online independent learning materials.

- From Reading into Writing (STEM scientists): [canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/T8JRMY](canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/T8JRMY)

- From Reading into Writing (Social scientists): [canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/LTL9E6](canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/LTL9E6)

- English for Academic Purposes Toolkit: [canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/XRG4TX](canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/XRG4TX)

- Find our downloadable British Academic Culture Guides: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/bia/guides](intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/bia/guides)
1–1 English

Book a 30 minute tutorial with an academic tutor to improve your spoken or written English. Just bring along a few pages of the essay, presentation, dissertation or thesis that you are working on to your session.

In a writing session we can look at grammar, vocabulary, academic style and organisation.

In a speaking session we can work on pronunciation, word and sentence stress.

We can also give advice on self-help resources available online.

Location: Main Library (R30) 1st Floor, Academic Skills Centre, appointment room 4.

Book an appointment using our online booking calendar: meetme.so/1to1english

For further information, visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/1:1english

AskEnglish!

Look out for our AskEnglish! drop-in service, where you have the opportunity to ask our friendly Academic tutors any questions about English.

Spring Term Location: The Alan Walters Building (R29), main foyer.

Every Monday 1.00–3.00pm
(starting Monday 7 January)
Every Tuesday 2.00–4.00pm
(starting Tuesday 8 January)

Every Thursday 1.00–3.00pm
(starting Thursday 10 January)

Booking not necessary.

For more information and Autumn timetable, visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/ask-English

Occasionally rooms and times are subject to change. Always check BIA Academic English Canvas before you leave for your 1–1 appointment and/or Ask English! drop-in. For self-enrolment link, see page 2.
Pick a topic and come along to our free lunchtime English lectures. These lectures are open to all international students whose first language is not English.

Lectures are 50 minutes and run from 1.00pm to 1.50pm every day.

**Autumn Term:** 1 October to 23 November 2018

**Spring Term:** 14 January to 8 March 2019

**Location:** At convenient locations all around the Edgbaston campus. Go to our Lunchtime English timetable on pages 7, 8 and 9 for a range of topics and lectures to choose from.

**Booking not necessary.**

For further information, visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/lunchtime-english

Occasionally rooms and times are subject to change. Always check BIA Academic English Canvas before you leave for your Lunchtime English lecture. For self-enrolment link, see page 2.
Lunchtime English Timetable

Autumn Term Timetable: 1–19 October 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRAMMAR</td>
<td>MORE GRAMMAR</td>
<td>ACADEMIC STUDY SKILLS</td>
<td>ACADEMIC WRITING</td>
<td>GRAMMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, G33</td>
<td>Education, G33</td>
<td>Watson, LTB</td>
<td>Physics West, LTB</td>
<td>Gisbert Kapp, N224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00–5.50pm</td>
<td>5.00–5.50pm</td>
<td>5.00–5.50pm</td>
<td>5.00–5.50pm</td>
<td>5.00–5.50pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muirhead, 121</td>
<td>Muirhead, 121</td>
<td>Aston Webb, WG12</td>
<td>Arts, LR3</td>
<td>Strathcona, LT3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 October – Developing your language detective skills
2 October – Number Agreement and Articles
3 October – Self-access resources to improve your English
4 October – Essay writing: an overview
5 October – Verbs and tenses

8 October – Tense selection: Simple and Continuous I
9 October – Verbs + _ing or Verbs + _infinitive?
10 October – Using the media to improve your English
11 October – The Characteristics of Academic Writing: Style
12 October – Tense selection: Simple and Continuous II

15 October – Tense selection: Past Time I
16 October – Showing Logical Links
17 October – Listening to Lectures: Problems and Solutions
18 October – The Characteristics of Academic Writing: Content
19 October – Tense selection: Past Time II

Please note that each lecture starts at 1.00pm and is repeated at 5.00pm

Autumn Term Lunchtime English timetable continued on page 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 November – Articles</td>
<td>12 November – Verbs + ‘infinitive’</td>
<td>5 November – Conditionals I</td>
<td>22 October – Probability I</td>
<td>GRAMMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 November – Hedging</td>
<td>13 November – Normalisation</td>
<td>6 November – Showing Logical Links</td>
<td>23 October – Number Agreement and Articles</td>
<td>MORE GRAMMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 November – Reading: Understanding Texts through Syntax</td>
<td>14 November – Research of Others/Verbs of Reference</td>
<td>7 November – Reading: Working out the meaning of unknown words</td>
<td>24 October – Lectures: Note-Taking</td>
<td>ACADEMIC STUDY SKILLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 November – Avoiding plagiarism: meaningful use</td>
<td>15 November – Reporting the Research of Others</td>
<td>8 November – Avoiding verbs + ‘ing’</td>
<td>25 October – Paragraph Organisation</td>
<td>ACADEMIC WRITING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 November – Conditionals II</td>
<td>16 November – Reporting the Research of Others/Verbs of Reference</td>
<td>9 November – Avoiding verbs + ‘ing’</td>
<td>26 November – Verbs + ‘ing’</td>
<td>GRAMMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 November – Codding and Paraphrasing Techniques</td>
<td>17 November – Conditionals II</td>
<td>10 November – Obligation II</td>
<td>27 November – Verbs + ‘infinitive’</td>
<td>MORE GRAMMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 November – Codding and Paraphrasing Techniques</td>
<td>18 November – Conditionals II</td>
<td>11 November – Obligation II</td>
<td>28 November – Nominalisation</td>
<td>ACADEMIC STUDY SKILLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 November – Codding and Paraphrasing Techniques</td>
<td>19 November – Conditionals II</td>
<td>12 November – Obligation II</td>
<td>29 November – Nominalisation</td>
<td>ACADEMIC WRITING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 November – Codding and Paraphrasing Techniques</td>
<td>20 November – Conditionals II</td>
<td>13 November – Obligation II</td>
<td>30 November – Nominalisation</td>
<td>GRAMMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 November – Codding and Paraphrasing Techniques</td>
<td>21 November – Conditionals II</td>
<td>14 November – Obligation II</td>
<td>31 November – Nominalisation</td>
<td>MORE GRAMMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 November – Codding and Paraphrasing Techniques</td>
<td>22 November – Conditionals II</td>
<td>15 November – Obligation II</td>
<td>1 November – Writing Persuasively, PERSUASIVELY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that each lecture starts at 1.00pm and repeated at 5.00pm.

Campus map references: Education (R19), Watson (R15), Physics West (R8), Gisbert Kapp (G8).

Academic English
# Spring Term Timetable: 14 January–8 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH CULTURE</td>
<td>ACADEMIC WRITING</td>
<td>ACADEMIC WRITING</td>
<td>VOCABULARY</td>
<td>GRAMMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
<td>1.00–1.50pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aston Webb, WG12</td>
<td>Old Gym, LG10</td>
<td>Watson, LTB</td>
<td>Murray Learning Centre, UG06</td>
<td>Nuffield, G13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>16 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>17 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>18 January</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– British Icons</td>
<td>– Definitions in Scientific and Technical Writing</td>
<td>– Planning your Essay</td>
<td>– Phrasal Verbs 1</td>
<td>– Noun Phrases and Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>23 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>24 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>25 January</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Birmingham and the Midlands</td>
<td>– Writing Scientific and Technical Reports</td>
<td>– Writing Introductions and Conclusions</td>
<td>– Phrasal Verbs 2</td>
<td>– Understanding Complex Sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>29 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>30 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>31 January</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 February</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– The English</td>
<td>– Writing Scientific Essays</td>
<td>– Writing a Literature Review</td>
<td>– Metaphors</td>
<td>– Verb Patterns with Objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>6 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>7 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>8 February</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– British but not English</td>
<td>– Choosing and using visuals in Scientific and Technical Writing</td>
<td>– The use of 'I'</td>
<td>– Idioms</td>
<td>– Quantifiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>13 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>14 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 February</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>19 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>20 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>21 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 February</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Media</td>
<td>– The Results Section in Empirical Writing (1)</td>
<td>– Claims and Counterclaims</td>
<td>– Academic Words</td>
<td>– That-clauses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>26 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>27 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>28 February</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 March</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Leisure/Sports</td>
<td>– The Results Section in Empirical Writing (2)</td>
<td>– Citing</td>
<td>– Academic Phrases</td>
<td>– Logical Connectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 March</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 March</strong></td>
<td><strong>6 March</strong></td>
<td><strong>7 March</strong></td>
<td><strong>8 March</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Politics</td>
<td>– The Discussion Section in Empirical Writing</td>
<td>– In-text referencing and Bibliographies</td>
<td>– Word Relationships: Hyponymy, Synonymy, Antonym</td>
<td>– Strong Adjectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Campus map references:** Watson (R15), Aston Webb (R6), Old Gym (Y1), Murray Learning Centre (R28), Nuffield (R9)
Boost your confidence and improve your speaking skills in English with Workshop English. Our Wednesday workshops provide tips and advice on how to communicate more effectively and confidently with your peers in an academic environment.

Come along if you want to practise your spoken English and communication skills in a small group.

Location: Priorsfield, Edgbaston Park Road, (G18).

Go to our Workshop English timetable on page 11 to see the range of sessions available.

Booking is essential as numbers are limited.

For further information, visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/workshop-english

Visit BIA Academic English Canvas and learn more about how to book your Workshop English session. For self-enrolment link, see page 2.
Workshop
English Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ADVANCED* Communication Skills Workshops</th>
<th>INTERMEDIATE Communication Skills Workshops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suitable for IELTS 7.0+</td>
<td>Suitable for IELTS 5.5–6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Time: 2.00–3.30pm</td>
<td>Time: 2.00–3.30pm (Autumn Term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00–2.30pm (Spring Term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 October/ 16 January</td>
<td>Breaking the Ice: Getting to know you and getting to know all about you</td>
<td>Meeting people and social interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 October/ 23 January</td>
<td>Lending an Ear and a Shoulder to Cry on: Asking and giving advice</td>
<td>Asking for and giving advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 October/ 30 January</td>
<td>Sounds Interesting: Sounds and stress in English</td>
<td>Sounds and stress in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 October/ 6 February</td>
<td>Pulling a Fast One: Understanding fast, natural English</td>
<td>Understanding fast, natural English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 October/ 13 February</td>
<td>Nuance and Subtlety in English: Exploring intonation</td>
<td>Communication with lecturers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 November/ 20 February</td>
<td>Getting to Grips with Phrasal Verbs</td>
<td>Contributing to seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 November/ 27 February</td>
<td>Metaphorical Language: Making the most of metaphor</td>
<td>Producing clear, understandable pronunciation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 November/ 6 March</td>
<td>Is the Direct Approach the Best Approach?: Pragmatics and social language use</td>
<td>Giving effective presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The advanced class is only for students who have a minimum of 6.5 in speaking skills. If you are in doubt about your level or the suitability of this class then please email: bia@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Watch this space

Please note that the Autumn Term workshops will be repeated in the Spring Term. Please check BIA Academic English Canvas for Spring Term timetable. For self-enrolment link, see page 2.
Synthesise for Success: summarise don’t Plagiarise

Synthesising from multiple written sources can be challenging when English is not your first language.

This course is designed to develop your writing technique and help to reduce your risk of unintentional plagiarism. It provides a mixture of practical exercises and improves your ability to paraphrase and synthesise multiple texts.

If you are a postgraduate international student then enrol onto our 8-hour course, split over four workshops.

This is a non-credit bearing course and assessment will be through the submission of a 500 word summary. If you achieve a 40% pass, you will receive a PASS grade on your final university transcript. The result you receive will not have any bearing on your main degree programme.

Spring Term Location: Priorsfield, Edgbaston Park Road, (G18)

Booking is essential. You must attend all four workshops.

The course is available 3 times in the Spring as well as 3 times in the Autumn.

For further information, visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/bia/summarise

### Synthesise for Success: Autumn and Spring Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP 1</th>
<th>GROUP 2</th>
<th>GROUP 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday Course</strong>&lt;br&gt;4.00–6.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday Course</strong>&lt;br&gt;2.00–4.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Thursday Course</strong>&lt;br&gt;4.00–6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop 1: 15 October/ 21 January</td>
<td>Workshop 1: 10 October/ 23 January</td>
<td>Workshop 1: 11 October/ 24 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop 2: 29 October/ 4 February</td>
<td>Workshop 2: 31 October/ 6 February</td>
<td>Workshop 2: 1 November/7 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop 3: 12 November/25 February</td>
<td>Workshop 3: 7 November/27 February</td>
<td>Workshop 3: 8 November/ 28 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop 4: 26 November/ 11 March</td>
<td>Workshop 4: 21 November/ 13 March</td>
<td>Workshop 4: 22 November/ 14 March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a booking form for Synthesise for Success, please visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/bia/insessional

This course is for Postgraduate Students only.
Improve your exam taking techniques with our one-off session. Open to all international students, you will cover the following topics:
- How to prepare for exams
- How to plan your time before the exam
- How to understand and analyse exam questions
- How to plan your answer
- Tips and techniques including:
  - Time management
  - Selecting which question to answer
  - Writing the introduction, middle and conclusion
  - Revision techniques

**Location:** University House G06 (O3 map)  
(Autumn) 2.00–4.00pm Wednesday 21 November, (Spring) 1.00–3.00pm Wednesday 20 March and Wednesday 24 April.  
**Booking not necessary.**

Visit BIA Academic English Canvas to learn more about the Spring term session for Exam Skills. For self-enrolment link, see page 2.

**Thesis Writing: Courses for PhD and Masters students**

Sign up to our Thesis writing course, which is free and open to all PhD and Masters Students writing a thesis or dissertation.

We offer two different courses depending on your academic programme: **Science, Engineering and Maths**, and **Arts and Social Sciences**.

There are 5 sessions. Each session is 2 hours and is based on a general topic:
- **Session 1** Structure and Introductions
- **Session 2** Literature review
- **Session 3** Methods section
- **Session 4** Results and Discussion
- **Session 5** Conclusions and Abstracts

You can attend individual sessions or all five sessions.

1. **Spring Term 2019** – January, February and March for **PhD students only**. The University Graduate School will contact you with exact session times and dates.

2. **Summer Term 2019** – June for **PhD and Masters students**. Summer term students will access course details, once it is posted on to the BIA Academic English Canvas course. Details may also be sent to you via your departments nearer the date.

For further information, visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/thesis-writing
PARTNERS’ ENGLISH

We run English classes for partners of postgraduate students that are working or studying at the University of Birmingham. The aim of the course is to develop listening, speaking and communication skills, for beginners to intermediate levels.

**Topics include:** greeting people, talking about yourself and family, shopping, cooking and talking to staff in medical and education services.

**Cost:** £90 (to include all tuition and materials)

**Location:** Priorsfield, Edgbaston Park Road, (G18). 4.15–6.15pm, Tuesdays in Autumn, Wednesdays in Spring.

**Autumn course dates:** 9 October–4 December
**Spring course dates:** 16 January - 13 March

Learn more: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/partners
Contact: bia@contacts.bham.ac.uk

DAY TRIPS

The Birmingham International Academy runs day trips to places of interest around the UK. Students have previously enjoyed trips to Warwick castle, Stratford-upon-Avon, Cotswold Wildlife park, Liverpool and Manchester.

**Costs apply to day trips and can be booked online.**
DON’T FORGET...

GLOBAL BUDDIES
Buddies are established students who volunteer their time to help other international students settle in to life at the University of Birmingham. The Service offers peer-peer support and regular mixing events.

Find out more: www.guildofstudents.com/support/guildadvice/global-buddies

ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTRE (LIBRARY SERVICES)
The Academic Skills centre offers a range of help to all University of Birmingham students, providing support with general academic skills as well as mathematics.

Find out more: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as

HOST SCHEME
Many students find that a weekend in a British family environment can help them learn more about British culture during their time in the UK.

The Host Scheme is run by HOST UK, an external charity. The British host gives students an experience of the culture and way of life in Britain. Students give hosts a personal insight into other parts of the world.

For more information, or to register your interest visit: www.hostuk.org

Learn more: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/bia