



Pre-Sessional English

About this course

Course overview

89% of students progressed onto their desired degree after successfully passing the course in 2024/25*

The QA Higher Education Pre-Sessional English (PSE) programme is designed to develop your English skills to meet the English language entry requirements of a QA partner university programme, at the foundation, undergraduate or postgraduate level. The course duration options are setup with your destination course English language requirements in mind to help you to progress.

The programme combines English language skills development with academic study skills required for you to successfully study at a UK university. It also allows you to develop social English language skills, both in class and outside class (online: through social activities and tasks).

Who is this programme for?

The programme is for those who would like to progress to a university-level programme with one of QA Higher Education's partner universities and need to develop their English language skills to meet the required entry-level. It is suitable for both international learners and some home students whose first language is not English.

In addition, the PSE is suitable for those of you who would like to improve your English and experience and understand how academic English is learnt and applied in a university context. It is a good way to experience what it is like to study academic English. Pre-Sessional English (PSE) can be studied in conjunction with an IELTS prep course to help get ready for an IELTS exam.

Pre-Sessional English is suitable for students who wish to study at

- foundation level
- undergraduate level
- postgraduate level

What will be covered on the course?

The 15-week programme will focus on the development of your language skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening; systems: vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. You will also develop your confidence in everyday social English and, to help prepare for life here in the UK at a university, you will explore and learn more about British culture and history.

The 10 and 5-week programme teaches you the language and academic skills necessary for you to gain the maximum benefit from your future academic course. You will develop these skills in a content-based approach to learning involving critical thinking, questioning, discussion, reflection and analysis.

By the end of the course, you will feel confident to research your subject, deal with a range of academic texts, attend lectures, take part in seminars and tutorials, and produce extended written academic assignments.

Tuition hours/online

When you study online, in advance of each class you will be provided with guidance notes and lecture materials. Before each class, you will be expected to engage with this learning to help you prepare for the class. To support this approach, before each class you can join a session with your lecturer to ask them to explain anything you don't understand or simply want to know more about. These drop-in sessions make sure that you are well prepared for when the actual lesson starts.

Typically if you are learning online you would receive:

- 16 hours of scheduled classes
- 4 hours of writing tutorials

- Drop-in sessions scheduled before or after classes, you can attend as many of these as you need or wish, up to a maximum of 4 hours per week.

The maximum class size is 18 students.

As Pre-Sessional English is open to students from across the world the classes will be scheduled to meet the requirements for different time zones.

Below is an example timetable; times may slightly vary depending on the country of origin/time size of the majority of students.

British Summer Time	Approximate difference		
	Asia (+7)	Middle East (+3)	Latin America (-4)
9am – 1pm	4pm – 8pm	12noon – 4pm	n/a
2pm – 6pm	n/a	5pm – 9pm	10am – 2pm

Example timetable

This programme is delivered by QA Higher Education

**Please note progression is not guaranteed and the course requires the full commitment of each student to successfully complete the course. This pass rate is based on 42 out of 47 students passing.*

Careers and further study

Successful completion of the Pre-Sessional English will prepare you for UK University study. You will be required to meet the academic and English requirements of your destination courses, as outlined in your offer letter (if applicable).

Universities you can progress onto:

- London Metropolitan University
- Northumbria University
- Solent University
- Ulster University
- St Mary's University

Modules

All modules are core and are 0 credits.

Reading, Writing and Language (15 week programme)

This unit is designed to develop your reading and writing skills. Reading sessions will include key reading techniques such as skimming, scanning.

The grammar and vocabulary of academic writing will be reviewed in-depth to support your writing and understanding of texts.

Speaking, Listening and Language (15 week programme)

This unit will develop your listening and speaking skills. Listening sessions will include listening techniques such as listening for gist, listening for specific information and listening for detail. Speaking sessions will include giving presentations and discussions in seminars.

Grammar and vocabulary of spoken English will be reviewed in-depth to support your understanding of listening to texts and speaking.

British Culture and Social English (15 week programme)

This module aims to help you with developing your social English and strategies of using English inside and outside the classroom.

There will be some pronunciation exercises on individual sounds and areas of connected speech.

Reading, Writing and Language (All PSE students)

This unit is designed to develop your reading and writing skills. Reading sessions will include reading techniques such as skimming, scanning and extensive reading, strategies for dealing with an unknown language, and predicting content.

Writing sessions will include structuring essays at sentence and paragraph levels, understanding thesis statements, and referencing.

The grammar and vocabulary of academic writing will be reviewed in-depth to support your writing and understanding of texts.

Speaking, Listening and Language (All PSE students)

This unit will develop your listening and speaking skills. Listening sessions will include listening techniques such as listening for gist, listening for specific information and listening for detail. It will also cover areas such as note-taking.

Speaking sessions will include giving presentations and discussions in seminars.

Grammar and vocabulary of spoken English will be reviewed in-depth to support your understanding of listening to texts and speaking.

UK Project (All PSE students)

This module is designed to help international students understand the conventions of conducting research, which is an important component of UK university study.

You will explore UK life and attempt to apply your research skills in a UK project.

The module develops your acculturation and will allow you to identify and explain the differences between your own culture and British culture.

You will be required to prepare and present on your research topic and write a report.

Entry requirements

There are no academic entry requirements for this programme.

You will be required to meet the academic conditions of offer for any course you plan to study after your Pre-Sessional English course.

There is no minimum age requirement for this programme. Parental/Guardian consent will be required for those under 18s.

Destination Course	7.0 Destination	6.5 Destination	6.0 Destination
Target entry requirements (IELTS equivalent)	7.0 overall with a min of 7.0 in all components	6.5 overall with a min of 6.5 in all components	6.0 overall with no component below
5 weeks	6.5 overall with a min of 6.0 in all components	6.0 overall with no component below 5.0	5.5 overall with no component below
10 weeks	6.0 overall with no component below 5.5	5.5 overall with no component below 5.0	5.0 overall with no component below
15 week	5.5 overall with no component below 5.0	5.0 overall with no component below 4.5	4.5 overall with no component below

Applicants can use the following to meet the English language requirement:

- Pearson – PTE
- TOEFL
- IELTS – Academic
- IELTS – Indicator
- Duolingo
- QA Higher Education English Test

Fees & finance

Tuition fees (2025/26)

- 5 week: £1,500
- 10 week: £3,000
- 15 week: £4,500

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- 5 week: £1,500
- 10 week: £3,000
- 15 week: £4,500

Your tuition fees cover the cost of teaching, access to resources, registration costs, and Student Support Services. They do not include the cost of course books, stationery and photocopying/printing costs, accommodation, living costs, travel, hobbies, sports or other leisure activities.

Additional costs

For students studying online, access to a laptop/PC with a microphone, speakers and a webcam is required.

Note: students without access to a PC/laptop will be unable to attempt the final assessments. Students cannot complete this course with a smartphone only.

Students in China may require access to a VPN to utilise all learning and assessment software.

How to make a payment – Flywire

Pay your tuition fees quickly and easily with Flywire, an online payment platform available in over 240 countries and more than 140 currencies.

Benefits of paying through Flywire includes:

- A range of payment methods tailored to your home country, including bank transfers and a wide range of credit/debit cards and e-wallets.
- Complete transparency of the total cost of your payment to QA Higher Education – Pre-sessional English, in your chosen currency.
- Compliance with local regulations for education payments.
- Full payment tracking and around-the-clock multilingual payer support via email, phone, or live chat.
- Flywire offers a Best Price Guarantee for bank transfers, matched against local bank offerings.

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Did you know that if you arrange a local currency bank transfer with Flywire and discover a better exchange rate at your bank within two hours, you can send them a quote from your bank, and they'll match it?*

**Terms and conditions apply.*

How to apply

You can apply directly to study Pre-Sessional English via our online application form. Please be sure to apply for the correct start date for your current and target English language level.

The IELTS destinations listed below are what you need for your progression degree's entry requirements.

Next application deadline: [See dates and fees here.](#)

Apply below for February 2026 (5-week) or January 2026 (10-week):

You will be directed to a QA Higher Education portal to set up an account and complete your application.

IELTS Destinations	5 week	10 week
IELTS 5.5	Apply for February	Closed
IELTS 6.0	Apply for February	Closed
IELTS 6.5	Apply for February	Closed

Apply below for July 2026 (5-week), June 2026 (10-week), or May 2026 (15-week):

You will be directed to a QA Higher Education portal to set up an account and complete your application.

IELTS Destinations	5 week	10 week	15 week
IELTS 5.5	Apply for July	Apply for June	Apply for May
IELTS 6.0	Apply for July	Apply for June	Apply for May
IELTS 6.5	Apply for July	Apply for June	Apply for May

Apply below for October 2026 (5-week) or September 2026 (10-week):

You will be directed to a QA Higher Education portal to set up an account and complete your application.

IELTS Destinations	5 week	10 week
IELTS 5.5	Apply for October	Apply for September
IELTS 6.0	Apply for October	Apply for September
IELTS 6.5	Apply for October	Apply for September