

Top Tips for Teaching learners with low English skills

UAL short courses do not require a specific level of English to enroll. We RECOMMEND that to get the most out of a course you need a certain level. The booking terms and conditions say that learners agree to:

6.1.3 ensure that I have a level of spoken and written English sufficient to allow me to participate in the Course (by way of a guideline only, I accept that if English is not my first language, UALSC would recommend that I have an English Language level equivalent to an IELTS score of 4.5 for practical courses and 6.0 for lecture courses to understand and participate in my Course);
but learners self-select based on this guidance.

However, if learners are unable to understand, and therefore adhere to, specific health and safety instruction they may need to be removed from the class for their own safety. The booking terms and conditions say they agree to:

6.1.5 comply with UALSC's health and safety rules as notified to me from time to time, including by wearing suitable clothing and footwear for practical classes;

If this is the case, please contact the customer service team (CST) and / or your Coordinator.

Remember that learners may have low speaking and reading skills but be able to understand a lot more than they can communicate. Take the time to notice how they are completing practical tasks as well as assessing their involvement in conversation and discussion.

If you find that you have learners in a class who appear to have very low English skills, do not allow this to impact on the level that you teach the class at. It is important that the presence of these learners is not detrimental to the other learner's experience.

Please do not ask other learners to translate for you. However, sometimes groups of friends enroll with the intention of supporting each other, so if translation is taking place, you can support it by allowing these learners to sit together, or away from the rest of the group to reduce disruption.

Some learners may use translation software on their phones. Provided it is not disruptive to the class this can be allowed, but recording of classes is not allowed. If you have any concern that this is happening, please ask the learners to desist and refer the issue to the CST. The booking terms and conditions say they agree to:

6.1.4 refrain from using any audio or visual recording equipment during classes or practical sessions;

These learners may feel more comfortable working in a group together and it can be less disruptive to the group if it is allowed, however, you may also find they are keen to interact with other members of the group and this should be encouraged.

When speaking to learners 121 these learners may need the task reiterated or re-explained, this should not mean they get more time than other learners, it just means their one-on-one time is used differently.



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Chaperones and agents.

These learners may be accompanied by chaperones and agents. Unless enrolled on the course these people are not permitted in the class. If an arrangement has been made different to this, you will have been informed. If you have anyone unauthorized in your class, please ask them to leave and refer to the CST or your co-ordinator.

All learners will benefit from a glossary document or access to written records of the class activities and presentations, but these can be extra support to learners with low English skills as they can translate the documents in their own time. Consider using a padlet

See this example by Tutor Lydia Brockless: <https://ualshortcourses.padlet.org/lydiabrockless2/art-and-design-for-11-to-15-year-olds-by-lydia-brockless-26--khqw099c9wht3y9c>

For further information about using padlet see:

<https://support.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2022/07/07/padlet-guide/>
<https://support.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2022/07/19/using-padlet/>

Further Training:

UAL offers the following training sessions that may also support working with learners with low English levels:

Name Pronunciation Training
Supporting Active Participation
Intercultural Communication Skills
Visualising Communication

Further information about these sessions and how to book onto them can be found on [Canvas](#).

