

Accreditation UK - Information Sheet

Accreditation UK, formerly the English in Britain Accreditation Scheme (EiBAS), is the national inspection and accreditation scheme for UK-based English Language Teaching (ELT) operations, both in the state and private sector. Accreditation under the Scheme signifies that a centre has achieved professional standards in its internal management, teaching, resources and environment and its care for students.

The Accreditation UK Scheme provides a worldwide benchmark of quality, and most other language centre accreditation schemes set up in the last 20 years have borrowed their approach, criteria and standards from this scheme. Internationally, it is the best-known Scheme of its kind.

The Scheme is managed by the Accreditation Unit of the British Council in partnership with English UK, the UK's national, professional ELT Association. Accreditation and subsequently use of the "Accredited by the British Council" marque is conferred only after a thorough inspection of each centre by independent inspectors against a set of criteria in four main areas:

- centre management and systems, including safety and security and the accuracy of publicity
- resources and environment, including buildings, equipment and teaching materials
- teaching and learning, including academic staff qualifications, lesson planning and how teachers actually teach in the classroom.
- welfare, including accommodation and all arrangements for student support and counselling.

Accreditation is valid for four years, though centres may be subject to an interim visit by the inspectors on an unannounced and random basis. Over 400 English language teaching operations including private language schools, departments/centres in further education colleges and universities are currently accredited under the Scheme.

More detailed information on the operation of the Scheme, the criteria and costs, can be found on the British Council website (<http://www.britishcouncil.org/accreditation-becoming-accredited.htm>).

The Benefits of Accreditation

The key benefits to your centre of accreditation under the Scheme are:

- that the process of undergoing accreditation helps centres to improve and develop
- identification as a quality provider
- eligibility for students to receive study visas (legislation pending)
- promotion through the British Council
- access to membership of English UK and its services

Accredited centres are:

- entitled to use the "Accredited by the British Council" marque in their marketing
- listed as accredited on the British Council website
- entitled to a free basic entry on the Education UK website
- promoted through British Council offices worldwide.
- listed in the English in the UK Guide produced by English UK and used as the primary print resource by the British Council in promoting ELT providers

Annual Accreditation UK Fee 2006/7

This annual accreditation fee is calculated by using a banding system based on student weeks. The annual fee does not include the costs of inspection. Institutions are required to be re-inspected every 4 years but, depending on circumstances, a range of alternative visits/checks may be carried out in the interim.

	Student Weeks	Standard	English UK members
Band 1	<2,000	£700	£600
Band 2	2-5,000	£750	£650
Band 3	>5,000	£800	£700

Student weeks for English UK members will be submitted on behalf of providers by English UK. Please note Band 3 is the default fee for providers who do not submit student weeks.

Accreditation UK Inspection Costs

Administration Fee (on application for inspection)	£150
Inspection Fee (depending on size of provision)	from £1,250

The average annual cost for an English UK member to be accredited starts at £915 per year.

Mandatory Accreditation by 2009

The Home Office has announced the intention to introduce a new points-based visa entry system by April 2009. It is likely that all UK-based English language teaching operations will first need to gain accreditation through the Accreditation UK scheme in order for their students to obtain study visas and gain entry clearance to this country.

Help through the accreditation process

Non-accredited centres can become English UK candidates when they sign up for the English UK accreditation consultancy service (ACS). This service offers ongoing help and advice about accreditation and a visit from an experienced English UK consultant. For more details see the English UK information sheet about the: **Accreditation Consultancy Service (ACS)** or on the website at <http://www.englishuk.com/training/>

English UK membership may be applied for as soon as a centre has achieved accreditation through the Accreditation UK Scheme.

Becoming a member of English UK

English UK has a wide range of services available to its full members, from promotional and marketing support (including the English in the UK guide and the website) through to professional development. Full details can be found on the following on the English UK information sheet about: **English UK Membership** or on the website:

English UK: www.englishuk.com/members

English UK Professional Development: <http://www.englishuk.com/training/>