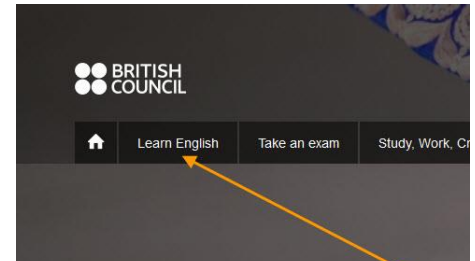


Learn English in the UK – An exercise on the British Council website

Here we take a route for an English language student interested in the UK who sets out to find relevant information from the British Council website, starting on the homepage.

1. Top left on the menu on the British Council home page is the “Learn English” link.
2. The linked page <https://www.britishcouncil.org/english> is promotional material for the British Council’s own resources. There is also “Where do you want to study English?”.



The alpha listing of the world’s countries where a student might choose to learn English does

not include the UK or England or Scotland. It does however include Wales and Northern Ireland (as well as Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, the USA etc.) and



these two link to lists of BC accredited programmes in those UK regions. For those choosing France or Italy or Spain (or who are otherwise visiting Britishcouncil.es, .it, .vn, .kw, .th etc), there is some puff for the British Council’s local teaching centres but no link between learning English and UK ELT. The Germans are meanwhile offered thousands of courses, the Saudis thousands of scholarships and courses, while for the Swiss there are a couple more steps to

Learn English in Wales

Are you an international student thinking of furthering your English language skills in Wales? Find our list of accredited institutions in Wales.

Study in the UK

The United Kingdom offers you a world-class education, internationally respected qualifications and outstanding career prospects.

Do you want to study at a UK university, college, boarding school or English language centre?

We are here to help you find your dream course and plan your studies. Find out more below.

In this section



Want to study in the UK?

Do you want to study at a UK university, college, school or English language centre?

3. <https://www.britishcouncil.ch/study-uk/learn-english-uk> where it says:

WHAT ENGLISH COURSES ARE ON OFFER?

There are many courses to choose from. The course you choose will depend on how long you can stay for, where you want to study and the level of English you want to reach. Our **Study UK** site offers an easy-to-search database of all the institutions and courses on offer in the UK. Choose the quick link “English Language Search” for language schools.

4. However for followers of that link to the Study-UK home page an “easy-to-search database of all the institutions and courses on offer in the UK” there is none, much less any “quick link”, and indeed no mention of English at all, not even on any drop-down menu. Our anglophile student might happen to click on **Study Options** or **Courses and Qualifications** where at last there is a link (if you look hard enough) saying “Learn English in The UK”. That turns out to be mainly a puff for BC Accreditation but there are also links to the Agenda page, and a link to English UK’s Coursefinder. The Agenda page leads with

5. "Search here for an English language course that suits you best and find out more about studying English in the UK."

The screenshot shows the 'English in the UK' website. At the top left is a blue header with the text 'Finding a school'. Below this is a photograph of five diverse young adults smiling and standing outdoors. To the right of the photo is a navigation menu with the following items: 'English in the UK', 'Finding a school (1)', 'Information for agents (1)', 'Living in the UK (1)', and 'Information for UK teaching providers (1)'. Below the menu is a search box with the text 'Search this website' and a 'Search' button. At the bottom of the screenshot is another search box with the text 'Cambridge Dictionaries Online' and a 'Look it up!' button. An orange arrow points from the search box to the text below.

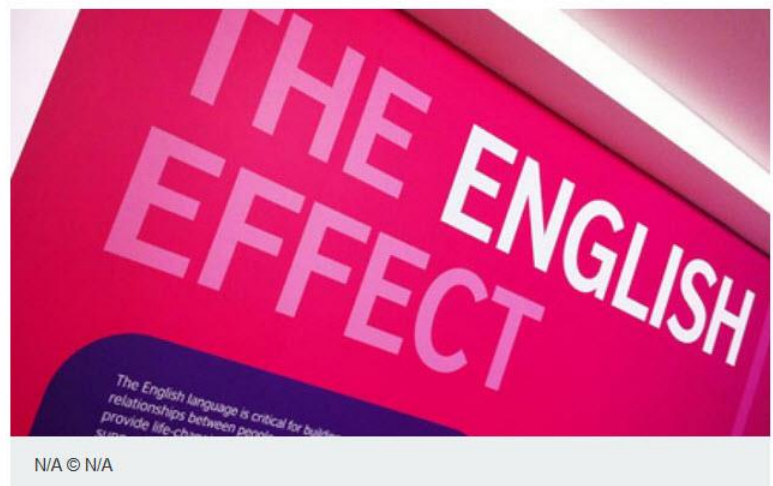
Search here for an English language course that suits you best and find out more about studying English in the UK.

But how? The adjacent search box is useless, and the only remaining hope is the apologetic link to the clunky CourseFinder on the English UK site, or the PDF link at the bottom of the page.

The British Council website is an elaborate dead end for students looking for English courses in the UK, and I challenge anybody starting on the British Council homepage to come to a different conclusion. Even a British Council homepage search for "English in the UK" results only in a pseudo-Latin "Greek" page (below right). If a student starts on the Study-UK bit of the Council site (if indeed an English language student gets there at all) it still takes 5 or 6 laborious clicks just to get a flat listing of schools on PDF, which is seriously disappointing. There could easily be a path for international students from the British Council home page(s) leading to UK educational institutions in all sectors, which could be self-maintaining, professional and better by far than Education UK ever was. The UK's international organisation for educational opportunities can choose to be the UK's channel and enabler. The visas, scholarships, "plan your stay", "life in the UK" etc. sections have their place, not to lead but to support what is needed: high quality, hard, searchable, linked information, structured to create contact and engagement between international students and the UK's educational institutions.

David Blackie
June 22nd 2017

Learn English in the UK



Tota tincidunt id ius, et eruditi incorrupte sed, has in labitur mnesarchum persequeris. Ne cum nominati pericula, eos eu mucius iuaret, virtute salutandi appellantur ut vim. Ferri augue in nec. Vel eu utroque intellegam dissentias, mea habeo deserunt ea, vel eu quem posidonium. Quas option ea qui, nam at diam etiam aliquam. In dico feugait nostrum sed. Pro saepe platonem expetenda in, quo ignota aeterno scripserit id.