

The UK language centre rankings 2023-24

UK centres of excellence



el.gazette

Percentile	Score	Institution	Type	Strategic and quality management				Premises and facilities		Academic staff profile					Care of students			
				Strategic and quality management	Staff management	Student administration	Publicity	Premises and facilities	Learning resources	Academic staff profile	Academic management	Course design	Learner management	Teaching	Care of students	Accommodation	Leisure opportunities	safeguarding under 18s
PERFECT SCORES	10.00	ELC Bristol*	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	10.00	English Language Centre, Brighton, The	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	10.00	London School of English (The)	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	10.00	LSI Portsmouth*	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	10.00	Summer Boarding Courses, Shipley	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	10.00	Wimbledon School of English*	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOP 3%	9.47	Bell International Cambridge*	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	9.47	Bell Young Learners- Multicentre	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1
	9.47	Broadstairs English Centre	PLS:Y+A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
	9.47	Brooke House College	PLS:Y BS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
	9.47	Discovery Summer, London	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	9.47	English in Chester	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1
TOP 5%	8.95	Bishopstrow College, Warminster*	PLS:Y BS		1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	8.95	Chichester College	FE	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1
	8.95	East Sussex College, Lewes and Eastourne	FE	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	8.95	English Language Centre, Eastbourne, The	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1
	8.95	International House London	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	8.95	ISCA School of English*	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	8.95	Millfield English Language Holiday Courses	PLS:Y BS	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1
	8.89	Edge Hill University	Uni	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	8.89	Marcus Evans Linguarama London	Biz	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	8.89	University of Manchester	Uni	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	
8.89	University of Sheffield	Uni	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		
TOP 8%	8.42	EF International Oxford	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1
	8.42	International House Bristol*	PLS:A	1	1			1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
	8.42	International House Newcastle	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	

KEY

1 = Strength
 -1 = Need for improvement
 NA = Not applicable
 Blank square = met the standard
 * = Compliance Inspection

Biz Business and professional training centre
 BS Boarding school
 FE Further education college
 TT Teacher training specialist
 PLS:A Private language school primarily accepting adults 16+
 PLS:Y+A Private language school catering for both adults and young learners
 PLS:Y BS Private language boarding school primarily catering for young learners under 16
 PLS:Y SS Private language summer school primarily catering for young learners under 16
 Uni University
 PWay Pathway

The information in this table is based on the latest Summary Statements for each centre as of 12 September 2023 and any compliance report where applicable. The Summary Statement can be found on page 1 of the full report for every accredited centre. These can be found at britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation/centres.

Percentile	Score	Institution	Type	Strategic and quality management				Premises and facilities				Academic staff profile				Care of students			
				Strategic and quality management	Staff management	Student administration	Publicity	Premises and facilities	Learning resources	Academic staff profile	Academic management	Course design	Learner management	Teaching	Care of students	Accommodation	Leisure opportunities	safeguarding under 18s	
TOP 8% (Contd)	8.42	International House Torquay	PLS:A	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	8.42	INTO Manchester	PWay	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			
	8.42	Kaplan International Bournemouth	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	8.42	Kaplan International Torquay	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	
	8.42	King's Foundation, King's College London	Uni	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	8.42	Loxdale English Centre	PLS:Y+A		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		
	8.42	NILE Norwich	TT	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		
	8.42	St. Giles International, Brighton	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	8.42	St. Giles International, London Central	PLS:A	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
TOP 12%	7.89	BEET Language Centre	PLS:A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1			1		
	7.89	Exsportise, Multicentre	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1		1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1	
	7.89	Harrow School Short Courses	PLS:Y BS	1	1	1	1	1	1			1			1	1	1	1	
	7.89	Heathfield Summer School	PLS:Y BS	1	1	1		1		1	1	1			1	1	1	1	
	7.89	Kaplan International Bath	PLS:A	1	1	1		1			1	1	1		1	1	1	1	
	7.89	Kaplan International Manchester	PLS:A	1	1	1		1			1	1	1	1	1	1		1	
	7.89	King's Oxford	PLS:A	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	
	7.89	Stafford House School of English, Canterbury	PLS:Y+A	1	1	1		1	1			1	1	1	1			1	
	7.89	Stafford House School of English, London	PLS:A	1	1	1		1				1	1	1	1	1	1		
	7.89	Perth College*	FE	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
	7.89	University of Salford	Uni	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	7.78	Sheffield Hallam University	Uni		1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		
	7.78	University of Dundee*	Uni		1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1		1			
	7.78	University of Leicester	Uni		1	1			1			1	1	1	1	1	1		

KEY

1 = Strength
 -1 = Need for improvement
 NA = Not applicable
 Blank square = met the standard
 * = Compliance Inspection

Biz Business and professional training centre
BS Boarding school
FE Further education college
TT Teacher training specialist
PLS:A Private language school primarily accepting adults 16+
PLS:Y+A Private language school catering for both adults and young learners
PLS:Y BS Private language boarding school primarily catering for young learners under 16
PLS:Y SS Private language summer school primarily catering for young learners under 16
Uni University
PWay Pathway

The information in this table is based on the latest Summary Statements for each centre as of 12 September 2023 and any compliance report where applicable. The Summary Statement can be found on page 1 of the full report for every accredited centre. These can be found at britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation/centres.

UK RANKINGS 2023-2024

Percentile	Score	Institution	Type	Strategic and quality management				Premises and facilities		Academic staff profile					Care of students			
				Staff management	Student administration	Publicity	Learning resources	Academic management	Course design	Learner management	Teaching	Accommodation	Leisure opportunities	safeguarding under 18s				
TOP 19%	7.37	Bede's Summer School, Hailsham	PLS:Y BS	1	1	1		1		1	1			1	1	1	1	
	7.37	Belfast Metropolitan College*	FE	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1				
	7.37	Brunel University, London*	Uni	1		1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	
	7.37	Cambridge Academy of English	PLS:A	1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	
	7.37	EC Manchester	PLS:A	1	1			1	1	1	1	1		1	1			
	7.37	ECS	PLS:Y SS	1		1		1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1	
	7.37	EF International Brighton*	PLS:A	1	1	1	-1	1	1		1	1	1		1		1	1
	7.37	EF International Bournemouth	PLS:A	1	1	1			1		1	1	1		1		1	1
	7.37	EF International Manchester	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1		1	
	7.37	Hilderstone College*	FE	1		1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	
	7.37	INTO Queen's University Belfast	PWay	1	1	1		1	1			1	1	1	1			1
	7.37	Kaplan International Oxford	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1		1	
	7.37	King's Brighton	PLS:A	1	1	1		1				1	1		1	1	1	1
	7.37	King's Summer Camps	PLS:Y BS	1		1	1	1	1			1			1	1	1	1
	7.37	Language in Action, Multicentre	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1		1	1			1			1	1	1	1
	7.37	Manor Courses	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1		1			1	1			1	1	1	1
	7.37	NCG Liverpool	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1		1	
	7.37	New College Durham	FE	1		1		1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	
	7.37	Sherborne International	PLS:Y BS	1		1		1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1
	7.37	Sidmouth International School*	PLS:Y+A	1	1		1	1			1	1			1	1	1	1
7.37	St. Clare's	PLS:Y BS	1	1	1	-1	1	1		1	1	1		1		1	1	
7.37	Studio Cambridge	PLS:A	1	1				1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	
7.37	University of Birmingham	Uni	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
7.37	University of Nottingham	Uni	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		
7.37	Wimbledon School of English Jnr Summer	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1		1			1	1			1	1	1	1	
TOP 20%	7.22	De Montfort University	Uni	1		1		1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	
	7.22	ECS Scotland*	PLS:A	1	1		1	1	1					1	1	1	1	
	7.22	Manchester Metropolitan University	Uni	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
	7.22	Nottingham Trent University*	Uni	1				1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	
	7.22	Teesside University	Uni		1	1		1	1			1	1		1	1	1	
	7.22	University of Chichester	Uni	1			-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

Percentile	Score	Institution	Type	Strategic and quality management				Premises and facilities		Academic staff profile					Care of students			
				Staff management	Student administration	Publicity	Learning resources	Academic management	Course design	Learner management	Teaching	Accommodation	Leisure opportunities	safeguarding under 18s				
TOP 25%	6.84	Bucksmore Education*	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	Cardiff and Vale College*	FE	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	Celtic English Academy	PLS:A	1	1	1	1			1		1		1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	Churchill House School of English Language	PLS:Y+A	1		1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1
	6.84	Churchill House Summer Centres	PLS:Y SS	1	1	1		1		1				1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	EF International Eastbourne*	PLS:A	1	1	1	-1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1
	6.84	IH London Young Learner Centres	PLS:Y	1	1	1		1	1		1			1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	Itchen Sixth Form College*	FE	1	1	1		1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	Kent School of English	PLS:Y+A	1	1	1		1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	NCG Manchester	PLS:A	1	1	1		1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	Sheffield College	FE		1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	St. Brelade's College	PLS:A	1	1	1		1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1
	6.84	St. Edmund's College, Ware	PLS:Y BS		1	1	1	1	1	-1	1	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	6.84	English Experience (UK) Ltd, The	PLS:Y		1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1
	6.84	UK Language Courses (UKLC)	PLS:Y	1	1			1	1			1			1	1	1	1

Dramatic increase in dropouts

Why have so many schools dropped from the rankings this year?

Last year, just one accredited centre fell out of the rankings. This year, it was 13.

Is it to do with the new optional compliance inspection? Possibly. Of the 13 dropouts, only two took that option.

On a compliance inspection, a school cannot go up because it cannot be awarded a new area of strength. However, a school can go down because if half the criteria in a single area is marked as 'not met', a 'need for improvement' is noted and we deduct these from the score.

As we summarise on page 16, in a full inspection, schools are awarded an area of strength if over half the criteria is marked as 'strong' and no single criterion is marked 'not met'. That means that a school only needs to make *one mistake* to lose an area of strength; they can rise up, but can also plummet.

Take the case of one former Centre of Excellence which underwent a full inspection this year; it received two 'needs for improvement'. If it had taken a compliance inspection, it would keep the 'areas of strength' from the previous score, but because of the 'needs for Improvement' given, its ranking score would have dropped by two.

However, this centre chose a full inspection. It lost two points on its score for the 'needs for improvement' and didn't meet all the criteria in a further 10. The maximum score it could have received in the ranking was three points.

Full inspections are more accurate in terms of 'areas of strength'. But such dramatic drops were almost unheard of when full reports were the only option, except in cases of existing schools acquired by another owner, particularly if the new owner is a chain of schools.

This may help explain another mystery; of the 13 centres which dropped out of the rankings, 11 of them were chain schools. Yet in the rankings there are more non-chain providers than chain schools. Of the non-chains inspected this year, roughly half chose a compliance inspection and the other half full ones. Two dropped out of the rankings, one of which chose a full inspection, and the other taking compliance. Neither plummeted.

Is the dropout problem due to compliance reports or is it all down to the chains?

