



# Have you ever thought about going abroad to improve your English?

If you are thinking about going abroad, you can find in this post some helpful information related with my weekly Erasmus Plus course experience in the EC London 30+ English School.



This is a modern, comfortable, filled with natural light school, which is equipped with the latest learning technology. Their bright, modern classrooms are equipped with state of the art technology, including interactive whiteboards. In the student lounges you can relax and practice your speaking with your classmates. In the school there are libraries facilities for extra study and free wireless internet.

# How they teach

At EC, they follow a 'Communicative Method' syllabus, which works to develop all four English language skills; reading, writing, speaking and listening.

To give an engaging and relevant framework to learn these skills, each lesson is focus on a specific topic, which could vary from current affairs to everyday issues. The professional and friendly teachers usually select topics that create interest, discussion and debate in the class.



This means as you engage with the language, you will also learn a lot about your classmates and different cultures around the world, all within an English context.

As well as taking an active part in classroom discussions, you work on your language skills in small groups, pairs or individually on tasks and projects. As you learn correct English pronunciation, increase your vocabulary, work on your grammar and improve your sentence construction, you will find you become able to express yourself in an accurate and appropriate way.



See inside their school: http://goo.gl/nQLxZD

http://www.ecenglish.com/school-locations/learn-english-in-london-covent-garden

# School Layout

EC London is based on the third floor of Euston House. They are there from 08:30 until 17:00 Monday to Friday. The classrooms, the library, the computer room, student lounge and student access computers are all based on the third floor. During busy



periods some classes may take place on another floor or in a nearby building. On the third floor you can also find academic notices and information about their weekly social programme.

In my first day, I went to Reception at 08:45am. There I was greeted by the staff who

gave me a welcome pack which contained information about the school and life in London. After that all the new students had a placement test to find our level of English and placed us in the most suitable class for our needs. After the test we had a welcome talk with more information about life at the school and living in London, a tour of the local area and an academic induction to tell us more about our classes.



Therefore we received our timetable with our level, teachers' names and classroom number. At the end of the day there was a welcome event allowing all new students to have the opportunity to chat and get to know each other in a more relaxed environment.

Every day we had two teachers for our General English course. One teacher used the coursebook to teach new language and the other teacher was focus on practicing the language we had learnt. In class there were a maximum number of 12 students in each class which let you take the most of the course.

## Social programme

EC London also offers a popular social programme with a choice of activities every day. As well as activity ideas for you to do with your classmates, they offer free conversation and pronunciation classes with a native speaker or qualified teacher, guided visits to local places of interest, sports in the park and a weekly trip to the local student pub amongst many other events.



Finally, let me give you some information to take into account if you are thinking about visiting London.

London is divided into 9 travel zones. The school and most major attractions are in zone 1. Don't forget to find out which zone your accommodation is in and buy a travel card for these areas.

**The Oyster Card** is the most flexible way of travelling around London as it covers all your transport needs with one electronic ticket. It's simple and easy to use, and is



activated upon entry at a ticket barrier located in the stations. All you need to do is tap in on the circular yellow card reader, and then tap out again when you have finished your journey. <u>https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/oyster</u>





You will find a Journey Planner on <u>www.tfl.gov.uk</u>. Type in your place of origin and your destination, and Transport for London will suggest the quickest route. It could be interesting to download the app in you mobile phone.

Climate



The weather in the UK is the topic of many conversations because it is so changeable. It is possible to see sun, rain, wind and clouds all in the same day, so it is a good idea to always carry a pair of sunglasses and an umbrella. Traditionally there are four main seasons. Spring runs from March until May, summer from June until August, autumn from September to November and winter from December to February.

#### Your accommodation



Living with a host family is certainly the best way to improve your English and truly experience life in a British household. Trying to speak to your host family and asking about their daily routine is the



best way to help you to settle in. You will have your own house key so you can be

independent but you must respect any house rules that the family has. Don't forget that if you are going to miss or be late for a meal, you must telephone your host family in advance. Also, do tell your family if there is any food that

you are allergic to or strongly dislike.

On the other hand, remember that residential areas are not in the very center of London so it is normal to travel for 40-60 minutes to get to school.

### Healthcare

**The NHS (National Health Service)** provides free and subsidized treatment for people who live in the UK. Be aware that if you get sick and are not entitled to NHS treatment you will have to pay the full cost of any treatment you receive in the UK. This can be expensive,



so make sure you have medical insurance that covers you while you're living abroad.





In conclusion, I would like to remark that the whole school has been in keeping with the image of professionalism and friendliness that the company is trying to portray.

ENJOY YOUR ERASMUS Going there has been a complete experience. What better way to learn the language than to immerse yourself in an amazing city, where English surrounds you. Speaking to classmates and homestay families, reading and listening to

materials that you enjoy and discovering your new surroundings will all help you improve your knowledge.



Dialling code for Britain: +44.