

ESL/LINC

There are different English training programs that take into account the differences in educational and cultural backgrounds and levels of English, designed for specific groups of learners or specific purposes, offered through local school boards, community agencies and colleges. If you are a visitor to Canada, you can attend full time or part time ESL classes for a small fee. If you are a permanent resident or convention refugee you can attend LINC classes for free.

Literacy Programs: Help Improve reading, writing and basic math skills in English.

English for Special Purpose: Focus on language skills related to specific areas of interest (e.g. workplace, school and ESL for academic reading/writing or business English.

English for Special Needs: For learners unable to attend regular ESL classes because of specific disability, emotional or mental health difficulties.

English Linked Skills/Computer Programs: help student develop English language skills while learning other business or technical skills such as typing or using a computer. Advanced level ESL learners can attend courses focusing on different aspects of computer use, i.e. Microsoft office.

Job Preparation Programs: Offer ESL training with job search related skills, e.g. workplace communication

LINC Home Study: is a language training program for newcomers to Canada who wish to study in the comfort of their homes, opting either for a traditional method (books and CDs) or a computer-assisted method (online) of study. Every student is entitled to a weekly facilitation session with a teacher who helps the student move through the LINC levels, just like in a classroom. The program is taught by experienced TESL-certified instructors and is supported by a team of experts in the area of distance language education. The program offers LINC curriculum for levels 2 to 7. www.linchestudy.ca

Distance Education: ESL courses for adults who speak little or no English and have someone to act as a volunteer tutor. The courses all have audio cassettes or CDs, student workbooks, and include one-to-one telephone lessons with a teacher at Independent Learning Centre. This is also called "distance learning."

Enhanced Language Training (ELT): These programs provide job-specific, advanced level English training to adults. ELT is particularly useful for internationally-trained professionals. See ELT fact sheet.

Non-resident ESL Programs: Fee-based classes for visitors to Canada. Fees are subject to change. For additional details, please inquire directly with the school/organization.

Bilingual ESL Programs: students are assisted by the instructor who speaks English and the same first language as the students, i.e. Bilingual English/Mandarin.

Citizenship Preparation: Program is for landed immigrants to prepare for the Canadian Citizenship test in English.

Before you can enrol in an ESL or LINC class you must get a language assessment from the YMCA Immigrant Services.

YMCAs of Cambridge & Kitchener-Waterloo Immigrant Services Coordinated Language Assessment and Referral Services

Kitchener Office

800 King Street West, 3rd Floor
Kitchener, ON N2G 1E8
519-579-9622

Cambridge Office

258 Hespeler Road
Cambridge, ON N1R 3H3
519-621-1621

Certified language assessors use assessments based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks to evaluate language skills in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. A benchmark is assigned for each of the four skills and a skills profile is handed to the client at the end of the assessment. The language assessors will support you in deciding on the language training, or other programs that best meets your needs. You will be given a referral to Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC), English as a Second Language (ESL), Enhanced Language Training (ELT), Occupation Specific Language Training (OSLT), Home LINC and other programs.

English Language Programs

Conestoga College LINC

Kitchener Campus
800 King Street West, 3rd Floor
519-886-3300

Waterloo Campus
145 Lincoln Road, 2nd Floor
519-886-6749

Cambridge Campus
150 Main Street, 1st Floor
519-740-8797

St. Louis Adult Learning Centre & Continuing Education LINC & ESL

Main Campus
80 Young Street
Kitchener, ON
519-745-1201

St. Mary's Campus
77 Young Street
Kitchener, ON
519-745-1201

St. Francis Campus
154 Gatewood Road
Kitchener, ON
519-745-1201

Emmanuel United Church
22 Bridgeport Road West
Waterloo, ON
519-745-1201

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
63 Grand Avenue N
Cambridge, ON
519-745-1201

David Durward Centre
62 Dickson Street
Cambridge, ON
519-745-1201

Resurrection Catholic S.S.
455 University Avenue West
Kitchener, ON
519-745-1201

Cambridge Annex
50 Saginaw Parkway Rm A1
Cambridge, ON
519-745-1201

English at First United Church

16 William Street West
Waterloo, ON
519-571-0360

Conversation Circles

If students need more practice speaking English, if they are unable to take English classes, or are unable to pay for classes as a visitor, they may want to join a Conversation Circle. There are various Conversation Circles in the region, which are free and are also a good way to make new friends.

Kitchener-Waterloo

YMCA Immigrant Services, Wednesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

800 King St. W., 3rd floor, Kitchener. Call 519-579-9622 ext. 243

Waterloo Public Library – McCormick Branch, Wednesday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

500 Parkside Drive, Waterloo. Contact Deb Wilson at 519-886-1310

Waterloo Public Library – Harper Branch, Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

500 Fischer-Hallman Rd, Waterloo. Contact Kim Sachs at 519-886-1310 x 310

Sunnydale Community Centre, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

508H Sunnydale Place, Waterloo. Contact Linda at 519-883-0410

Courtland-Shelley Community Centre, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

1064G Courtland Ave. East, Kitchener, call 519-571-7953

Kitchener Public Library – Main Branch, Tuesday, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
 85 Queen Street North, Kitchener. Contact Kristin Johnson-Perlock at 519-743-0271 x 230

Downtown Community Centre - Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 11:00 am
 35 Weber St. West, Kitchener, Main Floor, call 519-741-2501

Stanley Park Community Centre Seniors Circle, Wednesdays, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm 505 Franklin Street North, Kitchener, call 519-741-2504

YMCA Early Years Satellite Site + Children`s Program, Wednesdays, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
 719 Erbsville Road, Waterloo, call to register your child at 519-885-0552

Queen Street Commons Café - The Working Centre/MCRS, Thursdays, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 43 Queen Street South, Kitchener, call 519-743-1151 or 519-571-1912

Benton Street Baptist Church, Wednesdays, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 90 Benton Street, Kitchener, call 519-745-3792

Cambridge

YMCA Immigrant Services, Thursdays, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
 258 Hespeler Road, Cambridge, call 519-621-1621

Queen’s Square Library, Wednesdays, 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
 1 North Square, Cambridge, contact Wayne & Cheryl Warner 519-624-2035

Clemens Mill Library, Tuesdays, 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
 50 Saginaw Parkway, Cambridge, contact Wayne & Cheryl Warner 519-624-2035

For more information on this topic, visit our sources:

YMCA Language Assessment & Referral Services <http://bit.ly/1d0ya1r>
English Language Services in Waterloo Region <http://bit.ly/1GjoGe1>
Settlement.org www.settlement.org
St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centres www.stlouis.wcdsb.ca/programs/esl.html
Conestoga College LINC www.conestogac.on.ca/about/newcanadians/langprog.jsp
English at First United Church www.englishatfirst.com

Find other topics of information in our Fact Sheet series.

YMCA Immigrant Services Locations:

Kitchener-Waterloo Office

800 King St. West, 3rd Floor
 Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1E8
 Phone: (519) 579-9622

Cambridge Office

258 Hespeler Road
 Cambridge, ON N1R 3H3
 Phone: (519) 621-1621

School Settlement

77 Young Street, Rm 101
 Kitchener, ON N2H 4Y9
 Phone: (519) 742-8220

www.ymcaimmigrantservices.ca

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YMCAs of Cambridge and Kitchener - Waterloo
Immigrant Services

English Language Programs



Building healthy communities