

Asylum Advice

Post Decision
- Positive



Section 4A:

Post Decision - Positive

This section explains what happens if you are granted 'Leave to Remain' in the UK following consideration of your claim for asylum. The following information explains what happens next.

4A.1 What does your type of status mean?

There are three types of status that the Home Office may grant:

1. Refugee Status

If you have been recognised as a refugee it means that the Home Office has decided that you meet the definition of a refugee under the Refugee Convention and accepts that you have a well founded fear of being persecuted due to one or more of the following criteria: your race, your religion, your nationality, your membership of a particular social group or your political opinion.

The Home Office will initially grant you Leave to Remain (this is the right to stay in the UK) for a five year period. Your Biometric and Home Office paperwork will confirm that you have been recognised as a refugee.

Current immigration policy states that after the 5 year period of refugee status and humanitarian protection you can apply for 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' (Leave without time conditions, this is often referred to as settlement.)

However, if you or any of your dependants are convicted of a criminal offence this may be refused.

2. Humanitarian protection

This means that the Home Office has decided that you do not meet the criteria for refugee status, but it accepts that there are grounds to show that if you are returned to your country of origin, you would face a real risk of suffering serious harm. This could be because of:

- The death penalty/execution
- Unlawful killing
- Torture
- Inhuman and degrading treatment

- Punishment or a serious and individual threat to a life due to indiscriminate violence in situations of International or internal armed conflict.

If you are granted Humanitarian Protection you will be given 'leave to remain' (the right to stay) in the United Kingdom (UK) for five years. Your documentation will confirm that you have been granted leave on humanitarian grounds.

Current immigration policy states that after the 5 year period of humanitarian protection you can apply for 'Indefinite Leave to Remain'.

3. Discretionary leave to remain

If the Home Office does not accept that you meet the requirements for humanitarian protection or refugee status, but accepts that there are exceptional reasons for allowing you to stay on a temporary basis, you will be granted discretionary leave to remain (right to stay).

Discretionary leave is usually given for a maximum of two and a half years (30 months) at a time. You will be able to apply to extend your leave, and after ten years you can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

4A.2 If I have not been granted Refugee Status can I appeal?

If you are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave to remain, which is for more than 12 months, but you believe that you had strong grounds for Refugee Status then you can appeal against the Home Office decision. This is called an upgrade appeal; you will need to discuss this with your legal representative. If you are successful you will be granted Refugee Status.

4A.3 What happens when my leave is due to expire?

Towards the end of your period of your leave to remain, you will need to submit a further application to the Home Office. You can only submit your application 28 days prior to your leave running out.

It is important that your application is received before your current leave expires. If the Home Office has not made a decision on your application prior to your current leave expiring then you continue to have the same entitlements as before. If your application is received by the Home Office after your leave has expired then you maybe potentially become illegal in the UK. This means that you lose your rights to work, claim benefits and all entitlements associated with leave. If this happens you will need to obtain urgent legal advice. Information about this can be found on the Home Offices' immigration website.

If you have been granted 'Discretionary Leave to Remain' you will need to apply for further periods of 'Further leave to remain/stay'. You will be granted further leave as long as you continue to qualify for it under the policy. You will need to do this until you have had leave for a total of ten years. Information can be found on the Home Office website regarding applying for further leave to stay at: www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration.

After this point you will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain. If your application is successful there is no further time limit on your right to stay in the UK.

Important note: It is important to keep up to date with any changes to Immigration policies that may change over time. You can do this by reviewing the Home Office website at: www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration

4A.4 What paperwork will I be given?

Biometric card

You will receive your Biometric residence permit. This document is similar to your ARC. Your biometric residence permit is proof of your right to stay, work and study in the UK. You will need to use your Biometric card as a form of ID. You will need to show it when applying for a bank account in the UK. You are not required to carry this all the time but you will need to show it when you have to confirm your rights and entitlement in the UK.

Your Biometric card will be posted by secure mail to either you or your legal representative. You will receive a card for each member of your family.

Your Biometric card shows your name, gender, date of/place of birth, your photograph, your immigration status, when your leave expires, details of your entitlement and your signature. The Biometric chip on the card contains your fingerprints and a facial image.

Important note: you need to check that all details are correct on your card. You must report any mistakes to the Home Office immediately. You must report any errors within 10 working days of receiving your card. If you don't, you may have to reapply and pay for a replacement biometric card.

You can send your email to: BRPError@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Include the following in your email:

- your passport number
- your biometric residence permit number
- your case reference number
- your contact telephone number
- details of exactly what information is wrong.

What if I lose my Biometric Card?

If your biometric card is lost or stolen, you must report this to the Home Office as soon as possible. The Home Office will need to cancel your biometric card. You are required by law to cancel your card and you should notify the Home Office by email at: BRPLost@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

In your email you must state:

- Your full name;
- Your date of birth;
- Your nationality;
- Your passport number;
- Your biometric residence permit reference number;
- Your case reference number;
- Your contact details; and
- When, where and how the permit was lost or stolen.

You must also report the loss or theft to the police and get a police report and crime reference number as soon as possible. If your card has been stolen you should report the crime to your police station. If your card has been lost then you will need to report it via www.reportmyloss.com - It costs £3.95 in most areas to report a loss. You will need a debit/credit card to do this.

You will need to apply for a replacement Biometric Card. Information regarding this can be found on the Home Office website at: www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits

National Insurance Number (NINO)

As part of your substantive interview you should have been interviewed for a National Insurance Number. Your National Insurance number is a reference number that is unique to you. This is used in the UK in the administration of national insurance and the social security system. You will keep the same one throughout your life. It ensures that the National Insurance contributions and tax you pay are properly recorded against your name. It also acts as a reference number when communicating with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). National Insurance Numbers are usually issued to persons over the age of 16. Adult dependants are not interviewed for a NINO during the Asylum Interview. As such they will not receive a NINO automatically. You will need to contact the Department of Work and Pensions and they will arrange a NINO for your dependants.

If you need to apply for a NINO as you are due to start work or wish to become self employed then you need to contact:

Job Centre Plus
0845 600 0643

If you are applying for benefits then the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP-Jobcentre) will complete a national insurance form with you during your job centre interview. This form is called a 'DCI 1B form'. This will request that a NINO is given to you.

If you are called for a National Insurance Number interview, you will need to prove your identity and your eligibility to work in the UK. Your Biometric residence card will be able to prove this. You may also be asked to take other Identity documents with you. A letter will be issued confirming what information you need to take with you.

4A.5 Detail regarding Integration Loan

If you have received humanitarian protection or refugee status you will be able to apply for an 'Integration loan'. An integration loan is a loan scheme set up by the Home Office to help with the early stages of integration. Loans can be spent on items and activities that facilitate integration such as:

- Vocational training where provision is not available through Job Centre Plus. This should be discussed with your Job Centre advisor.
- A deposit for accommodation;
- Buying essential items for the home; or
- Purchase of tools of a trade.

If you do not have a bank account you will only be able to apply for the maximum of £450.00. It is therefore, important to open a bank account if you are applying for more. The loan repayments need to be collected in regular installments by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This will either be directly from your benefits or via a direct debit directly from your bank account. In most cases repayment of the loan will begin six weeks after the funds are released to the individual. You will need to sign a loan agreement form prior to the loan being paid. You will not be able to apply for an integration loan without a National Insurance Number. It will be regarded as incomplete and rejected if you apply without one, and will be returned to you. More information can be found at

www.gov.uk/refugee-integration-loan/overview

4A.6 NASS 35

If you have been receiving support from the Home Office you will also receive a NASS 35. This is an A4 laminated document, which has your photo on and details of your support. This will be sent to you from the Home Office Support team. It will confirm the support that you have received and confirm when your support will stop. All support from the Home Office will finish 28 days from the date you or your legal representative have received notification of your decision. If you need assistance with applying for NASS 35 then please contact Asylum Help on 0808 8000 630.

4A.7 How do I support myself and my family?

The Home Office no longer has a duty to support you 28 days after you receive notification of your status. You will receive a letter both from the Home Office and your accommodation provider (if you are Home Office supported), confirming what date your support will stop and the date you must leave your accommodation. You will need to leave your accommodation and remove all possessions by this date.

4A.8 Accommodation: England and Wales

Priority need for accommodation (emergency/temporary housing) You can ask your local councils' housing department for help if you are homeless. The council where you have been living is legally required to give you advice and assistance. Depending on your personal situation, they may have to provide accommodation for you.

If you think you may have a priority need (This can be due to; children in your family, someone suffering from serious illness- mental or physical, being at risk from domestic violence), the housing office may have to provide you with accommodation. You will need to submit a homeless application. The local council will assess this to see if they have a duty to provide you with accommodation. They assess whether you are homeless, are in priority need, made yourself homeless by choice and/or have a local connection.

If the council assesses you as 'priority need' then they will offer emergency or temporary housing. Emergency accommodation is likely to be bed & breakfast (B&B) or hostel accommodation. The law says that councils must not keep families and pregnant women in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks. You should seek advice from:

Shelter- they can give you independent advice regarding all housing rights and can be contacted on: 0800 800 4444

You will also be able to find an independent housing advice centre's in your area.

If a council accepts you are homeless and agree that they have a duty to house you. They may offer you:

- 1) Council Housing
- 2) Housing association
- 3) Secure long term private rented accommodation.

The Council can offer any of the above type of accommodation. Once a suitable offer has been made their duty will end.

If you believe that the accommodation is not suitable it is important that you seek independent advice before refusing the offer. If you refuse the offer of accommodation and it is deemed suitable for your needs then the council has the right to end their duty to you. They can terminate any emergency housing as you will have been deemed to be 'making yourself intentionally homeless'.

Shelter can give you independent advice regarding all housing rights and can be contacted on: 0800 800 4444

You will also be able to find an independent housing advice centre's in your area.

Private Accommodation

If you are not deemed to have a priority need then you will need to look into private rented accommodation.

You may be able to appeal if you believe that you are a priority case and have not been accepted by the council. You will need to seek independent legal advice in these circumstances.

If you are to secure accommodation most landlords will require a deposit and a full months' rent. A local housing agency will be able to confirm whether there is any help or assistance available to you with this in your area. There may for example be a local bond or rent deposit scheme. You may also be able to apply for an integration loan for assistance with this.

Street Homeless

If you find yourself street homeless there will be organisations in your area that maybe able to assist you.

Your local council should be able to assist you to obtain details of local organisations and/or night Shelters that maybe able to help you. This maybe with a safe place to sleep, sleeping bags or hot meals.

You can also contact Shelter- they can give you independent advice regarding all housing rights and can be contacted on: 0800 800 4444

You will be able to access:

Day Services - they can help with food, clothes and showers. They should be able to offer you independent advice.

Emergency Hostels and Night Shelters - you may be able to get accommodation for a couple of nights if you find yourself on the streets.

You can also contact **Streetlink** on 0300 500 0914 who will be able to offer you advice.

4A.9 Accommodation: Scotland

You can ask your local council's housing department for help if you have nowhere to stay. The council where you live is legally required to give you advice and assistance. If you make a homelessness application you will be offered emergency support while the housing department assesses your eligibility. If the council does not have accommodation available in the area they should offer you accommodation out of area.

If they decide that they have a duty to support you, then they will offer you permanent accommodation. You will be able to stay in your temporary accommodation until you have been offered permanent accommodation.

If they do not have a duty to offer you long term support then you should be able to stay in the emergency accommodation while you find somewhere permanent to live. If the council does not offer you emergency accommodation then you will need to contact a housing advice agency for assistance.

Emergency housing options if you find yourself homeless:

- hostels, night-shelters and winter shelters
- domestic violence and women's refuges
- bed and breakfast hotels.

The local council should be able to give you more information. You should also be able to seek assistance from a local housing agency. You will be able to apply for housing benefits to assist with the cost. Some accommodation options may be expensive and so you may need to top up the housing benefit to pay your rent.

Important note: The Local Housing Department or Housing Advice Centre should be able to confirm if there are any night shelters or hostels in your area.

For further information regarding housing, please contact Shelter on: 0800 800 4444. They will be able to give you independent advice and signpost you to the appropriate services.

4A.10 Accommodation: Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has a legal duty to provide help and advice if you become homeless. Depending on your personal situation, they may provide accommodation for you.

You will need to submit a homeless application. NIHE will assess this to see if they have a duty to provide you with accommodation. They assess whether you are homeless, are in priority need, made yourself homeless by choice and/or have a local connection. They may provide you with temporary accommodation while they investigate your circumstances.

If you are assessed as priority need (this can be due to; children in your family, someone suffering from serious illness · mental or physical, being at risk from Domestic violence), and meet the other criteria NIHE must help you find suitable accommodation for you to live. This needs to be available for at least two years. They do not have to provide you with permanent housing.

For further information call NIHE on 03448 920 920

4A.11 Housing Benefit, Local Housing Allowance & Council Tax Benefit

If you are on a low income or are claiming welfare benefits, you may be able to get housing benefit or local housing allowance to help pay some or all of the rent on your home. You will need to apply to the council for this. You may also apply for assistance with your council tax. Often the housing benefit / housing support allowance is on the same form.

4A.12 Welfare Benefits

The Government is gradually introducing a new single payment called Universal Credit for people who are looking for work or are on a low income. It brings together a range of benefits including Jobseeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit into a single payment.

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is being introduced in stages. To find out if you live in an area where you can claim Universal Credit see: www.gov.uk/universal-credit

You can claim Universal Credit online at www.gov.uk/universal-credit

If you have questions you can contact Universal Credit helpline: 0345 600 0723 (call charges apply). If you can't claim the Universal Credit then, if eligible, you can claim benefits listed below.

Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)

This is a benefit for people who are currently looking for work; or, on average work less than 16 hours a week.

You will have to complete a job seekers agreement or the new claimant commitment form. This sets out what you must do to find work. It states your responsibility to do all you can do to find work in return for your support. You must record all your job seeking actions while receiving Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). If you are not fulfilling your commitment the job centre may suspend or stop your benefits.

You may be able to access job centre training courses. This can include English Classes (ESOL). You will need to discuss this with the Job Centre.

Income Support

Income Support is a benefit paid to certain groups of people who do not have enough money to live on. It is means-tested, which means that any money you have is taken into account in deciding how much Income Support you should get.

England, Scotland and Wales

To qualify for Income Support you must be all of the following:

- Between 16 and the age of Pension Credit
- Pregnant, or a carer; or a lone parent with a child under 5 or, in some cases, unable to work because you're sick or disabled
- Without any income or on a low income
- Working less than 16 hours a week (and your partner works no more than 24 hours a week).

Northern Ireland

To qualify for Income Support in Northern Ireland you must be all of the following:

- Between age 16 and the age you can get Pension Credit
- On a low income
- Working less than 16 hours a week, depending on the amount of your wage
- Not in full-time study (but there are some exceptions)
- Not in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance

- Not in possession of savings above £16,000
- living in Northern Ireland

Or

- A lone parent
- On parental or paternity leave
- A carer
- A refugee learning English who arrived less than a year ago.

Employment Support Allowance (ESA)

This payment is for people who have an illness or a disability that means they are unable to work, or are limited in the kinds of work they can do. While you are getting the allowance, the job centre will give you a specially trained personal adviser. They may offer you a wide range of other services designed to help you move into suitable work.

The Job Centre may require you to fill in a questionnaire or go to a 'work capability assessment'. They will also assess whether you can take steps to find work, or if your illness or disability so severely affects your ability to work that taking these steps would not be reasonable.

You may be called to see a doctor or nurse who will complete an assessment and send it to the DWP. It will confirm how your illness or disability limits the amount and type of work you can do, and whether you qualify for Employment and Support Allowance.

There are two types of ESA:

Work-Related Activity Group · This is if the DWP believe that you may be able to work in the future. The Job Centre will expect you to take part in any work-focused interviews they invite you to and you may also need to take part in a work-related activity or they may reduce your benefit.

Support Group · This means that the DWP has decided that that your condition limits the work you can do. You can take part in work-focus interviews and work related activity if you choose.

Child Benefit

You may be able to get Child Benefit if your child is:

- Aged under 16
- Over 16 but under 20 · and is in education or training that counts for Child Benefit

- Under 18 and has recently left education or training - but they must have registered for work, education or training with a careers service, Connexions, local authority support services, Ministry of Defence or similar.

If you need further advice regarding Child Benefit call: 0300 200 3103

Child Tax Credit

Child Tax Credit can be paid to people with children who have a low income or are receiving a welfare benefit. For example:

- Under 16- you can claim up until the 31st August after their 16th birthday
- Under 20 - if they're in approved education or training.

Responsibility for a child

You're usually responsible for a child if they:

- Live with you all the time;
- Normally live with you and you're the main carer; or
- Live in Europe but are financially dependent on you.

If the child is disabled

You may get extra Child Tax Credits if the child:

- Gets additional benefits due to a disability
- Is registered blind (or was within 28 weeks of your tax credits claim).

You need to contact the Job Centre On:

Telephone: 0800 055 6688 / Textphone: 0800 023 4888

These calls are free from a land line but you may be charged from a mobile. The Job Centre office will have freephone telephone lines you can use. You may also be able to some applications on-line.

For information on Child Tax Benefit Telephone: 0345 300 3900 or for those who are deaf or hearing or speech impaired: 0345 300 3909

Pension Credit

To qualify for Pension Credit:

- You must live in Great Britain; and
- You or your partner must have reached Pension Credit qualifying age.

The qualifying age for Pension Credit is gradually going up to 66 in line with the increase in the state pension age for women to 65 and the further increase to 66 for men and women.

Pension Credit claim line:

Telephone: 0800 99 1234

Textphone: 0800 169 0133

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

4A.13 Other Benefits

You may be able to apply for other benefits if you are sick, have a disabled person in the household, you care for someone or someone cares for you or you have reached old age.

You can contact the Job Centre who will advise you of this or seek independent advice from your local benefits specialist. Your local Citizen Advice Bureau should also be able to assist, see also: www.adviceguide.org.uk

4A.14 Working Tax Credits

If you are working and on a low income, you may also be able to apply for working tax credits. You must work a certain number of hours a week to qualify:

Age	Hours worked a week
25 to 59	At least 30 hours
60 or over	At least 16 hours
Disabled	At least 16 hours
Single with 1 or more children	At least 16 hours
Couple with 1 or more children	Usually, at least 24 hours* (with 1 of you working at least 16 hours)

To apply or receive further information, contact:

Tax Credit Helpline

Telephone: 0345 300 3900

Textphone: 0345 300 3909

4A.15 Benefit caps

The benefit cap sets a limit on welfare payments so that the total amount of benefits that can be received by any individual or family will be limited to a maximum amount of:

- £500 per week for single parents and couples with children
- £350 per week for single people.

Housing benefit will be reduced to prevent the total benefits received going above these limits.

The cap applies if you are out of work and claiming benefits such as income support, employment and support allowance and jobseeker's allowance. Housing benefit counts towards the maximum amount of benefit that can be paid, so people paying high rents are more likely to be affected. You may not be included in the cap if you or a member of your family, are receiving certain benefits. This does not apply in certain circumstances.

4A.16 Working in the UK

Once you have your Biometric residence card you are free to work. The UK has a national minimum wage. Please check that your employer meets this rate.

Important note: If you have wage disputes or there are illegal practices you should contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Information regarding the nearest centre can be found www.citizensadvice.co.uk

Looking for work

If you are looking for work then you can go to your local Job Centre for a list of job opportunities available to you. There will also be a number of employment agencies in your local area advertising work.

Many local and national newspapers contain job advertisements. It is important to check that the employer is reputable and is paying at least the minimum wage.

Applying for Employment

Employers will stipulate how you need to apply for a job. There are several ways in which you may be asked:

- 1) **A Curriculum Vitae** - You will often hear or see this referred to as a "CV". An employer may ask you to provide a CV. This gives an overview of your experience and other qualifications. You will need to list your personal details, education experience, employment history and voluntary work. Your local Job Centre may be able to help you with this.
- 2) **A Job Application Form** - Most employers will ask for you to complete a job application form. You will need to telephone or email the prospective employer and give a contact address that they will send a job application pack to. In this pack will be more details about the role. Job specifications will tell you the Skills or abilities

they are looking for. It is important that you match your skills and experience with the Job specification when applying for work.

3) **An Interview** - Once an employer has considered your application you may be asked to attend an interview to further assess your suitability for the role. This could be with one individual or a panel of people. They may ask you questions relating to your application form, your experience, your skills and why you want the job. It is a good idea to research the company you could be working for before the interview and have a full understanding of the role that you will be asked to do. Think about questions that you may be asked and how you will respond to them.

Successfully found a job?

Your prospective employer will ask you to prove your eligibility for work prior to you starting work. You will need to show your Biometric Residence Card to prove this. You will also need to provide your National Insurance Number, although you do not have to have one in order to start work. Your wages should automatically have tax and national insurance deducted from them. If you have more than one job you need to notify your employer and the tax office so they can change your tax code to ensure that you are not underpaying tax.

Self employed / small business

You may wish to become self employed or set up your own business. Many people do this successfully. You may be eligible to apply for loans or grants to support you to do this. You may wish to seek advice from the local Citizens Advice Bureau to see what support is available to help you do this. You also need to talk to the tax office regarding your tax and national insurance.

Transferring Qualifications

If you have qualifications that may not be recognizable in the UK, the following organisation may be able to help you:

NARIC Free Advice:

If you are a refugee you can get free advice about your qualifications on this telephone number: 0870 990 4088.

4A.17 Rights to British Citizenship

There are seven requirements you need to meet before you apply:

- You must be aged 18 or over;
- You must be of sound mind (To have a full understanding of your actions);
- You must intend to continue living in the UK, or to continue in Crown service, the service of an international organisation of which the UK is a member, or the

service of a company or association established in the UK;

- You must be able to communicate in English, Welsh or Scottish Gaelic to an acceptable degree;
- You must have sufficient knowledge of life in the UK;
- You must be of good character; and
- You must meet the residential requirements (see below).

Immigration time restrictions to British Citizenship

You must be free from immigration time restrictions when you apply for naturalisation. You should have been free from immigration time restrictions during the last 12 months of the residential qualifying period. This means that you can apply 12 months after you have been granted indefinite leave to remain.

You must have been in the UK legally throughout the residential qualifying period. You may be refused your naturalisation application if you have breached the immigration laws during that period. Some discretion may be exercised over this residence requirement depending on what factors caused the breach.

Time outside the UK

You must not have had more than 450 days outside the UK in the five year period before making the application. You must not have had more than 90 days outside the UK in the 12 month period before making the application.

If you do not meet these residence requirements but believe that there are special circumstances in your case, you should explain them when you apply.

Good character

To be of sound character you must show that you have followed the laws and obligations of the UK.

You will not be deemed to be of good character if you have any criminal convictions. These will include prison sentences, fines or community service. You are unlikely to be granted citizenship until these are spent. (This is the length of time after you have completed your sentence, before they are removed from your record.) This ranges from 3 years to 15 years. The Home Office is unlikely to grant citizenship to anyone who has been sentenced to 4 or more years.

British Citizenship of children

If you have recently been given permanent leave to Remain/stay (ILR), and you have a child that was born in the UK before this, you will be able to register your child as a British citizen.

If you give birth once Indefinite Leave to Remain is granted then your child will be British from birth. For more information see:

www.gov.uk/becoming-a-british-citizen/check-if-you-can-apply

Please note that there are different fees for citizenship applications.

4A.18 Family Reunion

If you have been granted humanitarian protection or refugee status you will be entitled to apply for Family Reunion. Family Reunion is for a pre existing family member to join you in the UK. They will be able to join you under the same conditions of your leave.

This could include: a spouse, civil partner and unmarried/same sex partners. This will also include children under the age of 18 who were dependant on you and formed part of your family when you fled. This also includes children that were conceived prior to your departure.

The Home office may allow Family Reunion for other family members if there are compassionate reasons why their case should be considered outside the Immigration Rules. More information regarding this can be found on the Home Office website at: www.gov.uk/settlement-refugee-or-humanitarian-protection/family-reunion

4A.19 English Classes

You may wish to improve your English skills. This is a great way to understand life in the UK and integrate into your local community. You may want to learn English to help you find work, enable you to study, help with day-to-day living and help you to socialise. You will be able to attend ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages). You can start at the level that suits you. You will be assessed to see what your level of English is already and placed at a suitable level. You will learn:

- Conversational English
- Listening to English
- Reading and writing English
- Vocabulary
- Punctuation and grammar

In order to apply for an ESOL course you should contact your local further education college.

Courses generally begin in September. If you are having trouble finding a college offering a suitable ESOL course, you should ask your local JobCentre Plus for assistance.

Will I have to pay?

England

If you are on Job Seekers Allowance or received employment based ESA then you will be able to access free English classes.

Wales

In Wales ESOL courses are free of charge.

Scotland

You can apply for funding for English classes through:

- fees and student support in Higher Education (HE)
- fee waiver and discretionary bursary support in Further Education (FE)

You will be able to do this if you are an ordinary resident on the first day of the course starting.

Your spouse, civil partner or child who meets the ordinary residence criteria in Scotland is also eligible. You may also be eligible to apply for an Individual Learning Account or an Education Maintenance Allowance.