



College ESOL Survey 2019 - Report

Date: July 2019

Background

The [Integrated Communities Action Plan](#), published in February 2019, outlined several actions to support English language learning, including an ESOL strategy. The action plan arose from a consultation based on the [Integrated Communities Green Paper](#), which specifically noted the role played by colleges in ESOL teaching. The ESOL strategy is due to be published in the autumn of 2019. AoC has been working with DfE to help shape thinking, a process which included the development of this ESOL survey, the results of which will be shared with the Department.

Responses

Nearly 30% of all colleges, from across all regions, responded to the consultation.

Type	Number of responses	Number of colleges in England	Percent within type
General further education college	66	171	39%
Sixth form colleges	5	54	9%
Specialist college	2	26	8%
Total Colleges in England	74	251	29%

Type	Number of responses	Number of colleges in region	Percent within region
Eastern region	5	24	21%
East Midlands	6	17	35%
Greater London	11	37	30%
North East	5	14	36%
North West	10	42	24%
South East	13	40	33%
South West	5	24	21%
West Midlands	11	25	44%
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	28	25%
Total Colleges in England	74	251	29%

For 73% of colleges, less than 30% of the Adult Education Budget allocation is spent on ESOL, though in seven colleges the figure was over 50%.

The majority of colleges have more ESOL places at Entry and Pre-entry level than Levels 1 and 2. 69% of colleges have ESOL waiting lists, though in 59% of cases the numbers on the waiting lists were fewer than 100 applicants. In 81% of colleges the waiting time for a place is less than 3 months. 32% of colleges collaborate with other providers to reduce waiting lists. 45% of colleges said that the highest level of unmet demand is at Pre-entry.

The vast majority of colleges, 83%, use in-house initial assessment methods. The average number of delivery hours on an ESOL course is 51 to 150. 52% of colleges deliver this number of hours. 57% of colleges enrol ESOL students onto Functional Skills English. In the majority of colleges (63%) ESOL students make up 30% or less of the total number of Functional Skills English students though in four colleges, the number was over 50%.

While the survey focused on adult delivery, in the free responses a number of colleges noted that they deliver ESOL to 16 to 18-year-olds.