



We can help you learn English

Why should I learn English?

Now that you are in Australia it is important for you to learn English.

English is Australia's national language. People in Australia speak many languages, but to take part fully in Australian life you will need to speak and understand English. Without English, you will find it difficult to access many essential services and to become independent, including finding employment. English is also needed if you wish to become an Australian citizen.

What is the Adult Migrant English Program?

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is an Australian Government funded program that helps eligible migrants and refugees to learn basic English language skills to help them to settle successfully in Australia.

As well as helping to build your English language skills, by participation in the AMEP, you will learn about Australian society, culture and customs. You will also meet other new arrivals, who may have similar backgrounds, experiences and goals. Participating in the AMEP will probably help you make many new friends in Australia.

Am I eligible for the program?

You may be eligible if you are an adult migrant or refugee settling in Australia, have been granted a permanent visa or eligible temporary visa and you speak little or no English. Some migrant youths between 15 and 17 years of age may also be able to learn with the AMEP.

You need to register with an AMEP service provider within six months and begin English classes within one year of arriving in Australia or from the date your visa commences.

You can study English with the AMEP for up to 510 hours over five years from the date of your arrival in Australia or visa commencement.

You may be eligible for additional tuition if you have special needs because of difficult pre-migration experiences (for example torture and trauma) or limited schooling.

In addition, additional tuition is available to AMEP clients through the Settlement Language Pathways to Employment and Training (SLPET) program. SLPET offers clients an employment focused course to assist them to learn vocational-specific English while gaining familiarity with Australian workplace culture and practices.

What will the program cost?

There is no charge for eligible migrants and refugees to study through the AMEP.

Who will teach me?

The AMEP is offered through service providers such as TAFE colleges, state education departments and private and not-for-profit organisations. These service providers employ teachers who are trained in teaching English to speakers of other languages.

Your local AMEP service provider will tell you whether you are eligible for the program. They can also recommend the best way for you to learn English and seek approval for you to defer the start of your classes if you need to for family or work reasons.

Your service provider will advise you which course will best suit your needs. They will do this based on your work and family circumstances and your current level of English. They can also help you plan for further study after the AMEP.

Who will look after my children while I am learning English?

Your AMEP service provider can arrange free childcare for your children while you attend class. Free childcare is only offered for children who are under school age and only during the time you attend class.

For more information ask your AMEP centre for a childcare fact sheet.

Where will I learn?

Service providers offer full-time and part-time courses at different times (days, evenings and weekends) and in different venues including schools, colleges and community centres.

Service providers offer courses in rural and regional areas as well as in the major cities.

What if I am unable to attend classes?

In addition to classroom-based tuition, there are alternative types of tuition available to clients, including distance learning, the Home Tutor Scheme and self-paced e-learning.

Distance learning

The AMEP has a distance learning program. Your AMEP service provider can give you more information and advice on this course.

The program is delivered either online or through a package of sequenced text books and audiovisual material. You will also have regular contact over the phone with a qualified teacher. You will need to spend at least five hours a week on the course.

Exercises and activities include listening to the radio, reading newspapers and advertisements, talking about yourself, asking for information, filling in forms and writing letters.

Home Tutor Scheme

If you are eligible for the AMEP and are unable to attend classes, you may be able to learn English with a tutor at home or a location that is suitable for both of you.

The tutor can discuss with you the best way for you to learn English and help you understand daily life in Australia.

Your AMEP service provider can give you more information and advice on this scheme.

Self-paced e-learning

You can also learn at your pace by accessing the free online self-paced e-learning modules through the AMEP distance learning website at www.amepdl.net.au

The free online tool is available to everyone, including non-AMEP clients and people intending to migrate to Australia, who want to improve their English language skills.

Before beginning AMEP classes

Before beginning AMEP classes you will need to make an appointment with your AMEP centre to:

- assess your level of English;
- agree on the number of hours you will study each week and the type of class you will attend;
- discuss childcare needs and what the AMEP centre can do to help you;
- develop an individual pathway guide which will set out your educational and career goals; and what you will need to do and learn to achieve these. Your progress towards achieving your goals will be recorded on your plan as you learn more English.

More information

For more information, you can call the Skilling Australia information line on 13 38 73 from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local call.

Information about the AMEP, including your closest service provider, can be found at www.industry.gov.au/amep

If you need interpreting help, contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) National on 131 450 (local call cost from anywhere in Australia). They provide translating and interpreting services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.