

The Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre

The Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre was set up in 1984. It provides guidance, support and training for a wide range of different groups who suffer from social and economic disadvantage.

The current activities of the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre include:

- The Welfare Rights Unit
- The EURES Crossborder Partnership to assist the free movement of labour throughout the member states
- Routes to Resilience
- *I Can Do It!*
- The Fellowship of Messines Association
- Access Skills Ireland
- The John Hewitt bar and restaurant
- Designing, documenting and delivering the *BELFAST Programme* to help adult foreign nationals by:
 - Improving communication skills in English, so that Learners can get a job, a better job or promotion in the area where you have skills, qualifications and knowledge
 - Giving new opportunities to identify what Learners need to do to improve their English grammar and vocabulary for work and everyday living
 - Helping Learners understand the job-hunting process in Belfast and beyond.

The BELFAST Volunteers deliver the BELFAST Programme through:

- *Beginner classes*
- *Meetups*: Learners (normally B1 and above) meet regularly for English for Employability, apart from language guidance and support, they have opportunities to explore aspects of the job-hunting process in the local environment.
- *Personal Learning Plans*: Each individual has a monthly programme of work to guide and structure their private study
- *Self Access Centre*: Resources are available for private study, including:
 - Grammar, vocabulary and dictionaries
 - Sector-specific language practice material
 - Material to provide skills practice at different levels from A1 to C2.

Belfast for Better English

The **BELFAST** Self Access Centre

Building English Language For A Successful Transition

Helping Learners of English as a Foreign Language in Belfast and beyond

Improving English for Employability



Contact

Aisling Cartmill
Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre
4-6 Donegall Street Place
Belfast BT1 2FN
T 028 9096 1111
m 078 0314 7662
e aisling.cartmill@burc.org
w www.burc.org

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The **BELFAST** Self Access Centre

BELFAST SAC 101

- Open 10.00–13.00, Tuesday–Thursday
- Lots of recent and relevant material for autonomous learners of English!
- FREE!

Adult Learners of English as a Foreign Language can get help with:

- *Language:* Grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation
- *Skills:* Listening > Speaking > Reading > Writing
- *Level:* Beginner, Elementary, Lower intermediate, Upper Intermediate, Advanced.

The focus of this resource is on:

- Understanding the issues, challenges and problems of YOU and your English
- Developing your knowledge and understanding of a range of tools and techniques, plus some tips and tricks, that can support you to improve your English
- Networking with others who share your interest in improving their confidence in communicating accurately in English.

Things you can do in the **BELFAST** Self Access Centre

- 1 Introduce yourself and talk to us about your language needs
- 2 Complete a diagnostic test to help us make recommendations to improve your accuracy and fluency in using English for a range of purposes
- 3 Discuss how we can help you to create your Personal Learning Plan
- 4 Use a range of recent and relevant resources to help you increase your confidence in using the English you need: General English grammar / vocabulary, sector-specific vocabulary
- 5 Go online, so that you can be more confident in using the websites and apps that can help you to improve your English and your job-hunting skills
- 6 Carry out a review, normally every 4 weeks or online, of your progress – with ideas, suggestions and recommendations for a revised Personal Learning Plan for the next month
- 7 ... and meet, talk to and network with like-minded people.

Frequently asked questions

- 1 **Who** will I meet in the **BELFAST** Self Access Centre?
 - Other Teachers with an interest in finding out more about how autonomous learning can help you improve your English
 - Other Learners with an interest in finding out more about how autonomous learning can help you improve your English
 - People who want to find jobs, good jobs and better jobs in Belfast and beyond.
- 2 **What** language areas do SACers need?
 - Better grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation
 - How to use grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation in Belfast and beyond.
- 3 **What** skills do SACers need?
 - Listening > Speaking > Reading > Writing
 - Job-hunting!
- 4 **How** can social media help SACers who are Autonomous Learners of English?
 - Facebook
 - WhatsApp
 - Apps
- 5 **What** do SACers need when they progress?
 - 'Can do ...' statements
 - Learning skills
 - Learner training
- 6 **What** is the BELFAST Centre?
 - Resources for English language learners and teachers in Belfast and beyond
 - A venue for programmes to increase the employability of adult foreign nationals in Belfast and elsewhere in the north of Ireland
 - Friendly folk!
- 7 **Where** can I find out more?
 - By coming to the BELFAST Centre's Self Access Centre; it is normally open 10.00–13.00, Tuesday–Thursday
 - By making a booking to meet one of us face-to-face to discuss issues, challenges and options to help Learners in your environment.
 - By going online to dig, delve and discover what the BELFAST Programme can do for you! www.burc.org/BELFAST