

Press release: Thousands to benefit from new English language programmes

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- Winners of £4.5 million Integrated Communities English Language Programme announced.
- A further £1.2 million will be given to successful winners of the English Language Coordination Fund to develop new coordination models.
- Both will help learners get the right type of English language provision to help them integrate into life in England.

Councils, charities and adult learning providers have been successful in their bids to receive a share of funding which will help adults with their English language skills, Communities Minister Lord Bourne announced today (28 February 2019).

Everyone living in England should be able to speak and understand English, so they can integrate into life in this country and make the most of the opportunities of living in modern Britain.

The government's Integrated Communities English Language Programme and Coordination Fund aim to tackle one of the key causes of poor integration.

The Integrated Communities English Language Programme will fund over 19,000 learner places, teaching in communities with a high proportion of adults who speak little or no English.

The programme looks to support learners who may not have previously taken steps to learn English and will deliver classes that will improve proficiency in English, boost confidence and encourage integration.

At a Talk English lesson held at Manchester Art Gallery, Communities Minister Lord Bourne said:

Speaking English is so crucial in our day-to-day lives – whether we're helping our children with their homework or travelling on a bus to do the shopping.

This new programme is focused on those people who may be isolated by their inability to speak the language and help them better integrate into life in this country by making good use of local services, becoming part of community life and mixing and making friendships with people from different backgrounds.

This new programme will start in April and replaces and builds on the success of the existing community-based English language programme which has helped over 73,000 people to improve their English over the last 5 years.

The successful bidders who will be funded from the new Integrated Communities English Language Programme include Redbridge Institute of Adult Education, FaithAction, Manchester Adult Education and TimeBank.

Joni Cunningham, Principal of Redbridge Institute said:

We are very excited to be part of this much needed innovative programme which will take English language teaching into the heart of our communities. Supporting people informally to take their first steps in learning English will break down barriers, raise ambitions to carry on learning and help people make more of their lives.

Today's announcement also includes 8 successful local authorities who will be funded from the new English Language Coordination Fund.

The fund will help local authorities and their local partners to improve the coordination of ESOL provision by proposing a better local offer for learners to suit their needs.

This will include access to better information about provision for learners as well as offering single points of contact where learners can receive impartial information, advice and guidance and have their English language learning needs properly assessed.

Case studies of learners

Manchester City Council (Talk English)

Shazia joined a [Talk English course](#) in Leeds to improve her English, gain confidence and be more independent, so that she didn't have to rely on others. She also hoped that learning English will help her to support her child's education and wellbeing.

By taking part in Talk English, Shazia has started to talk to the staff at her child's nursery and has taken her child to the doctors and the park by herself. Shazia has also taken part in some community events and speaks English with her neighbour, who is friendly to her.

FaithAction

Jaheda had lived in the UK for 34 years but could not speak English and therefore rarely left the house. She suffered from severe depression.

[Creative English](#) gave her the confidence, language skills and awareness of other opportunities in her community to go on to join another English class and the friendships to meet regularly with a group of women from different cultural backgrounds in a local coffee shop.

Further information

With almost 3,500 responses, the government's [Integrated Communities Strategy green paper](#) last March set out proposals to support people to speak English, including a new community-based English language programme from April 2019

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[Press release: Prime Minister announces UK aid to boost Jordan's prosperity](#)

Prime Minister Theresa May will announce UK aid to help Jordan transform its economy at the Jordan: Growth and Opportunity conference in London today

[Press release: Prime Minister](#)

announces UK aid to boost Jordan's prosperity

Prime Minister Theresa May will today (28 February) set out an increased UK aid package of support to help Jordan's economy become more self-sufficient at a major international conference in London.

The Prime Minister will use the 'Jordan: Growth and Opportunity' conference to call on global leaders and businesses to follow the UK's lead and invest in Jordan's future.

Today's announcement will provide new investment grants to create new jobs, boost productivity and increase the country's economic resilience.

The package will be tied to Jordan's own ambitious plans, with most grants linked to delivery of reform. It will help to stabilise Jordan's economy and support the country's promising entrepreneurs as they build small and medium sized businesses.

The UK sees Jordan as a critical partner at the heart of an unstable region and will continue working closely with its key ally in the interest of mutual security, stability and prosperity.

Speaking from the Jordan conference, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

Jordan is a nation which is doing the right thing. It is reforming its economy, investing in its people and in the wake of the conflict in Syria has taken on a huge share of the responsibility of providing a safe haven for millions of refugees. It is a beacon of stability amid the conflict and uncertainty of the Middle East.

We must stand by Jordan and support its ambitious plans for economic reform. We will all benefit from the greater stability, security and trade that growth in Jordan will bring.

Today's UK aid support includes:

- using Britain's development programme in the UK's national interest and in close partnership with the private sector – announcing that the UK will underwrite a \$250 million World Bank loan to Jordan;
- a new £14m contribution to a new World Bank-led trust fund for Jordan. This pools international donations which will be spent on modernising government systems, promoting exports and making doing business easier;
- a new £50m contribution to a multi-donor fund to provide low-interest loans tied to reform and a Youth, Technology and Jobs programme with a focus on jobs and business opportunities for Syrian refugees;
- a new partnership between the UK Government and Government of Jordan to

- strengthen commercial relationships and unlock investment opportunities;
- the deployment of top British experts to work with Jordan's economic institutions, to help modernise its banking system, improve its business environment and boost its tax revenue; and
- using English language training to help further enhance cooperation with Jordanian military and border forces. This will lead to more effective joint operations between the UK and Jordan, enabling better security for both countries, as well as smoother trade and travel for English speakers.

By supporting Jordan's long-term prosperity, the UK will boost the potential of the country as its future trading partner, support stability in the Middle East and tackle international threats like global terrorism.

Support to Jordan follows the bold new approach set out on the PM's visit to Cape Town last summer where she announced that international development should be done with the UK's national interest in mind.

The UK aid package announced today involves expertise and funding from across the UK government, including the Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, Home Office, the British Council and the Conflict Stability and Security Fund.

The event in London will champion Jordan as a key partner for international trade, underlining the power of investment to enable countries to move to a future beyond aid.

Notes to editors

Today's announcement takes the UK's bilateral support to Jordan up to £650 million over five years, a doubling of the UK's previous funding. In addition, the UK will underwrite a \$250 million World Bank loan to Jordan. Over the last five years, the UK's support was around £300 million to Jordan.

Over the next five years the UK's bilateral support to Jordan includes:

- The UK will provide a new £50 million to the World Bank's Global Concessional Financing Facility over the next four years. This will include grant-financing to enable Jordan to undertake key economic reforms and will go towards a Youth, Technology and Jobs programme with a focus on jobs and business opportunities for Syrian refugees; and
- A £14m contribution to a new World Bank led trust fund for Jordan. This pools international donations which will be spent on modernising government systems, promoting exports and making doing business easier.

In addition to the UK's bilateral support the UK is also helping Jordan in the following ways:

- using Britain's development programme in the UK's national interest and in close partnership with the private sector – announcing that the UK will underwrite a \$250m World Bank loan to Jordan;
- a contribution to a global finance initiative supporting SMEs, enabling

banks to give out more loans to Jordanian entrepreneurs setting up small and medium-sized businesses;

- a partnership between the Bank of England and the Central Bank of Jordan which will support Jordan's reform of its banking system. This will include technical expertise to enhance the stability and resilience of the financial system, maintain price stability and reduce wider economic risks;
- the UK government and Government of Jordan will launch a new partnership to strengthen commercial relationships, boost trade between the two countries and unlock investment into Jordan. Staff from the UK's Department for International Trade will work with the Jordanian embassy to support Jordanian companies looking to invest in the UK and British and international companies hoping to export to Jordan. The Department will also be providing direct support to His Excellency the Minister for Investment on his economic transformation programme, with a focus on trade and investment. The unique partnership will increase bilateral trade between the two countries and help create jobs and ensure economic stability;
- the Home Office's Immigration Enforcement International (IEI) has started a programme of English language lessons for Jordanian Border Officers based at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman. This commenced in January 2019 and will continue until March 2020;
- an agreement between the UK Office of National Statistics and the Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS) to work together on a new strategy that supports the Jordanian government to use data to improve its policy making;
- a pledge by HMRC to work together with the Government of Jordan's Income and Sales Tax Department to design new systems to increase tax revenue and prevent tax avoidance; and a BEIS mentoring programme to help Jordan in reforms aimed at making it easier to do business in the country. This will help attract future international investment in Jordan.