

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASS FOR UNDERGRADUATES (Code HI 004)

Background

This programme ran for the first time in 2009 and will be repeated in 2012. It will comprise 25 hours English per week and will follow the syllabus for the Irish state examination, TIE www.tie.ie

A very important aspect of the programme is that it operates in conjunction with the WIT Summer School for students from USA Universities. The two groups share recreational activities and outings; this social interaction across continents makes the programme unique.

Admission Criteria

In order to join this programme students should normally have :-

- completed at least 3 years study of English
- have achieved at least Intermediate level English with good grades (a placement test can be undertaken if necessary)
- an age of 17 or more
- consider fluency in English as part of your career development

Class Size and Teaching

Classes will not exceed 15 students. Teachers are all graduates with TEFL certification and experience in EFL teaching. Classes are interesting and interactive and utilise a wide range of modern learning aids.

Duration and Dates

The programme duration is 3 weeks.

Classes will commence on Monday 25th June 2012.

Curriculum , Timetable – Academic and Activities

There are three practical components to the TIE preparation. Students carry out these tasks and record them in a logbook:

- a short project on a subject of interest to him/her
- read a book of the student's choice in English at the student's level
- Follow a News Story in the newspapers and/or on TV or radio.

Students will have 6 hours tuition per day, Monday to Thursday, 9 am to 4pm. In order to permit outings with the students from USA, some days classes may extend to 6pm.

Each day will comprise:-

4 hours formal English classes focusing on the three tasks listed above.

Classes will be very interactive and will use technology to assist learning.

These formal classes will be punctuated with the following additional classes to permit more informal English language learning:-

- one hour computing (blogs and on-line exercises)
- one hour drama / music / dance

Students will have one hour lunch / leisure break each day.

On Fridays, they will have 3 hours classes in the morning and the rest of the day will be devoted to private study / project work.

Details of the course and the assessment are provided on the TIE website www.tie.ie and in the extract below.

In the evenings and weekends this Undergraduate group will join in either the Hello Ireland activities – sports, games, films, social evenings and outings or the activities organised by WIT for the USA Summer students . There will be no time for boredom!

Accommodation and Catering

Classes will take place in Waterford Institute of Technology www.wit.ie and students will stay in WIT student apartments at Manor Village. Please refer to the accommodation section of this web site for details.

Student Feedback

Please visit the testimonial section of our website.

Test of Interactive English

The **Test of Interactive English (TIE)** is an international EFL exam developed in Ireland by a group of Irish English language professionals under the aegis of the Advisory Council for English Language Schools (ACELS) www.acels.ie, a government agency responsible for quality assurance in English language teaching. TIE can be taken by junior and adult students on either short or long courses in Ireland as well as abroad.

TIE is a learner-centred exam which is flexible, i.e., designed to recognise and accommodate the needs and interests of each learner whatever their level of English, age, cultural or educational background. The test is task-based with the content chosen by each individual learner and can therefore be used to assess learners with the following needs and motivations:

- learners of English for general purposes;
- learners of English for vocational, professional or academic purposes;
- learners of English as a second language.

Junior TIE (JTIE) Junior TIE is designed for all students attending secondary schools. In all other respects the preparation and conduct of the exam is similar to TIE.

The following are all excellent reasons for doing the TIE examination:

- TIE has been designed according to sound methodological principles.
- TIE is recognised by the Irish Department of Education and Science and for credito formativo in Italy.
- TIE has been recognised by ASEP as an English language examination for Greece.
- TIE assesses your levels of written and spoken English and separate grades are awarded for each part of the test
- Assessment follows the Common European Framework and the TIE certificate is suitable for inclusion in a European Language or Europass Portfolio.
- Rigorous quality assurance checks are in place to ensure validity and reliability.
- TIE can be taken by learners at any level.
- TIE can be taken at regular times every month in Ireland.
- Detailed feedback is provided to teachers in TIE centres.
- Certificates are sent out within ten working days.

Structure

Students do three tasks and record them in a logbook:

- a short project on a subject of interest to him/her
- read a book of the student's choice in English at the student's level
- Follow a News Story in the newspapers and/or on TV or radio.

The Test

The test is in two parts – a speaking test (OTIE) and a written test (WTIE). In the oral test the student presents a project, talks about either your book or news story and talks to his/her partner to reach a decision based on some material the examiner will give him/her. In the writing test students are required to produce two pieces of writing. One about either their book or news story and for the second the student has to write something which he/she has not prepared.

Duration and Location

The writing test takes 1 hour and the speaking test takes 30 minutes (25 minutes for Junior TIE). The test can be taken in any TIE centre (usually the candidate's own school) or at TIE Examinations Limited in the case of individual candidates.

Assessment

The test is assessed according to the Council of Europe's Common European framework of Language Proficiency. The grades for the two examinations are slightly different:

	Junior TIE	TIE
Proficient User	C1 & C2	C1, C1+ & C2
Independent User	B1, B1+, B2 & B2+	B1, B1+, B2 & B2+
Basic User	A1, A1+, A2 & A2+	A1, A2 & A2+

Results are issued and certificates sent within 10 working days. All results are sent to the schools or centres entering the candidates and it is their responsibility to ensure that candidates receive their certificates.

URSULA – GO TO WWW.WAE.IE and export the photographs in courses/ adults /undergraduate summer programme and export the two photographs.