

TCPS Educational and Welfare Provision for Students Whose First language is Not English

Thames College of Professional Studies welcomes students from all over the world, local as well as students abroad whose first language is not English. The College's policy to accept individual applications on their own merits facilitates the cultural and racial diversity that is embedded within the College.

As we mainly deal with international students, who are required to produce a Secure English Language Test (SELT) achieving a minimum of CEFR Level B1 to be granted a Tier 4 Student visa, it is very rare that overseas students will have major learning difficulties due to language.

On arrival, students are interviewed and tested specifically for English language and generally for the course suitability of the chosen course. Based on the English level achieved, students are offered complementary English language classes for various durations for familiarisation and to help them improve their basic skills.

It can take some time for students to become attuned to the language and become used to their new environment. If a student is having particular difficulty it is possible to arrange extra lessons in order to strengthen their language skills or help them with subject vocabulary. At TCPS we help our students to adjust culturally and integrate within the community, especially when a student is new. Strong emphasis is placed on students practising all English skills as much as possible outside lessons, as this is the key to their academic success.