#LEARN ENGLISH IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS
THE VILLAGE IN THE CITY
2020
WELCOME TO BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, THE VILLAGE IN THE CITY, JUST ONE SUBWAY STOP FROM MANHATTAN!

BSL is a small school (max capacity of 65 students) where everyone gets to know each other, so you will immediately feel like you are part of a very large family. Our student body is varied, as we welcome students from all over the world (48 different nationalities in 2018) and the average age at school is 34 years old.

Being based in Brooklyn means that we have local accommodation options, so you can spend less time on public transport, and more time practicing English at home or with your new friends. Brooklyn is very lively and has a lot to offer its visitors, so you will never get bored!

Our students say that they love our friendly and experienced teachers, the amazing views over Manhattan from our modern school on the 34th Floor, and the personal attention they receive from our warm and caring team. Come and join them!

I LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO BSL AND BROOKLYN

Rich Ambler,
BSL School Director

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ABOUT US

BSL is an independent boutique language school with a warm welcome and excellent student services.

Our focus is on our students and ensuring they receive the best possible language learning experience. Every student benefits from a comfortable learning environment, plenty of personal attention, high quality teaching from dedicated teachers, as well as local accommodation options and the possibility to participate in our varied social program.

We aim to provide our students with a different New York City experience, as well as the opportunity to discover the vibrant borough of Brooklyn. Our English programs are designed to improve their English language skills in an effective and enjoyable way. They reflect New York’s cultural diversity and at the same time take into account the international use of the language.

99% OF OUR STUDENTS WOULD RECOMMEND US!

"THE SCHOOL HAS A GOOD SPIRIT, VERY COMPETENT AND FRIENDLY TEACHERS, WHO TEACH RESPECTFULLY AND ALSO WITH HUMOR.

Rich and the team take a lot of time for excursions to show the city to their students. The school has an amazing view over New York and is simply a place to feel at home.

Thanks to all of you for your dedication."

Christina Zurbrügg, 58, Austria
10 REASONS TO STUDY WITH US

1. BROOKLYN
   A TRENDY BOROUGH WITH PLENTY TO DO, AND A LESS CROWDED ALTERNATIVE TO MANHATTAN

2. THE SCHOOL PREMISES
   MODERN, BRIGHT, FULLY EQUIPPED, WITH AMAZING VIEWS OF THE MANHATTAN SKYLINE!

3. THE ATMOSPHERE
   A SMALL, FAMILY-LIKE SCHOOL WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS EACH OTHER

4. OUR SMALL CLASSES
   MAXIMUM 12 STUDENTS PER CLASS FOR GENERAL ENGLISH AND 8 FOR BUSINESS ENGLISH

5. OUR STAFF AND TEACHERS
   DEDICATED, CARING, ALWAYS READY TO HELP AND PROVIDE PLENTY OF PERSONAL ATTENTION

6. OUR CEA ACCREDITATION
   A GUARANTEE OF QUALITY FOR OUR ENGLISH PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES

7. OUR ACCOMMODATION
   ALL BROOKLYN-BASED FOR A SHORTER COMMUTE, AND RECRUITED BY US SO WE KNOW WHERE YOU ARE STAYING

8. OUR SOCIAL PROGRAM
   VARIED AND FUN, TO DISCOVER MANHATTAN AND OUR HOME BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

9. THE AVERAGE AGE
   34 YEARS OLD YEAR-ROUND

10. THE NATIONALITY MIX
    STUDENTS CAME FROM 48 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES IN 2018

2018 AGE & NATIONALITY MIX
(48 NATIONALITIES TOTAL)

“Everyone is very kind and the general atmosphere is very good. It makes us want to come to school everyday.” Dorentina Emini, 22, Switzerland

“Perfect school, perfect teachers, perfect atmosphere. I love it!” Linda Casini, 29, Italy

Average age at school: 34 years old
LOCATION

The school is situated in the heart of Brooklyn Heights, the “VILLAGE IN THE CITY”, and just one subway stop from Downtown Manhattan - or a 30 minutes’ walk on the Brooklyn Bridge.

There is a wide variety of shops, delis, restaurants, cafes and bars all within a few minutes’ walk of the school in the Montague Street Shopping District, as well as two nearby subway stations serving the A, C, F, 2, 3, 4, 5, and R lines.

An 8-minute walk from school will take you to the famous Brooklyn Promenade, which looks out over the East river to Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge.
SCHOOL FACILITIES

The school takes up the entire 34th floor of Brooklyn’s tallest landmark building, which was built in 1928. The views of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Statue of Liberty are breathtaking!

BSL offers a clean, bright and comfortable learning environment with modern classrooms, a small communal kitchen area, free internet and Wi-Fi. Hot fresh coffee and tea are served daily. Doughnuts and pastries are served every Friday for our graduation.

The atmosphere at BSL is warm and welcoming. Everybody knows each other and you will not feel lost in a crowd here. You will soon feel like part of a big family and meet friendly, like-minded people from all over the world.

"THE SCHOOL WAS A VERY BIG SURPRISE FOR ME. Very intelligent way of having conversations dynamics, very relaxing and cozy place, and very nice and open minded people. All of them are very nice people."

Renata Raggi, 46, Brazil

BRIGHT, FULLY EQUIPPED CLASSROOMS WITH VIEWS OF NEW YORK
OUR TEAM

Our team is friendly and welcoming and will make you feel at home from day 1. We like to spend time talking to our students and making sure they are happy and getting the most out of their stay in Brooklyn.

Our mission at BSL is to provide dynamic and serious instruction in English as a Second Language. We want to help students meet their academic, social, and professional language needs, while enjoying their time in New York.

Rich, the School Director, is from Cambridge, England, and opened the school in April 2013. He is very involved in the day-to-day running of the school and enjoys getting to know all the students that come to school.

All of the staff at school will get to know you on a personal level and make sure you have the best experience possible while in New York. We can answer your doubts or questions regarding your course and your progress in English, your accommodation, your activities or free time... and anything and everything in between. Don’t hesitate to ask, we are here for you!

OUR TEACHERS

Our instructors are fluent speakers of English at a native level who push students to progress in their knowledge and understanding of the language as fast as possible. They are trained to design lessons around their students’ interests, to make learning contextual, to keep their students motivated, and to build learner confidence.

Our teachers’ diverse and innovative teaching methods – communicative approach, student centered instruction, cooperative learning, integrated grammar instruction – create a modern and demanding learning environment where students learn quickly and thoroughly about all aspects of the English language.

Each of our levels can be completed in 8 weeks, provided students are motivated and participate.

BSL teachers challenge and support every student by providing individual feedback and suggestions about how each participant can further improve his/her English language skills.

“I AM HAPPY I MADE A DECISION TO GO TO YOUR LANGUAGE SCHOOL! GREAT TEACHER, GREAT ATMOSPHERE, SMALL GROUPS. JUST GREAT!”

Denis Drobyshev, 38, Russia

GOOD TEACHERS, AUTHENTIC MATERIALS & THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT
STUDENT FEEDBACK

"I THINK THE BUSINESS CLASS IS VERY WELL STRUCTURED. THERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING TOPICS AND THE BOOK IS VERY CHALLENGING."

Martina Micheli, 31, Italy

"THEY ARE A VERY LOVELY FAMILY. THEY HELPED ME A LOT AND ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION I HAD. THE HOUSE WAS CLEAN THE WHOLE TIME."

Clarissa Marlene Schwilk, 23, Germany

"THE SCHOOL IS AWESOME. I LEARNT A LOT AND MY SPEAKING IMPROVED A LOT."

Thiago Henrichs Stulpen, 25, Brazil

"I really loved learning English at BSL, the school atmosphere is awesome! Thank you Rich and the team!"

Berenice Champion, 19, France

"I THINK THE BUSINESS CLASS IS VERY WELL STRUCTURED. THERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING TOPICS AND THE BOOK IS VERY CHALLENGING."

Martina Micheli, 31, Italy

"THE BEST ENGLISH CLASSES I'VE EVER HAD! I LEARNT SO MANY THINGS AND I AM NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK ANYMORE."

Berenice Champion, 19, France

"THE SCHOOL IS LIKE A FAMILY!"

Davide Amoroso, 28, Switzerland

"THE BEST ENGLISH CLASSES I'VE EVER HAD! I LEARNT SO MANY THINGS AND I AM NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK ANYMORE."

Berenice Champion, 19, France

"MY TEACHER IS VERY KIND, FRIENDLY, DYNAMIC, VERY SPONTANEOUS AND RESPECTFUL."

Sandra Picarra, 34, Portugal

"THE LOCATION IS PERFECT, IN A VERY NICE DISTRICT OF BROOKLYN, AND VERY CLOSE TO MANHATTAN. AND FOR ME IT IS GOOD THAT THERE AIN'T SO MANY JAPANESE STUDENTS IN THIS SCHOOL."

Takeshi Ogozo, 43, Japan

"EASY TO FIND, AWESOME VIEW, CLEAN, FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL STAFF - IT HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED."

Falk Ehler, 19, Germany

"THE SCHOOL IS THE BEST SCHOOL I HAVE STUDIED IN. EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT BUT THE BEST POINT IS THE DIRECTOR RICH, AMAZING, ALWAYS IN TOUCH WITH THE STUDENTS, GREAT JOB!"

Jose Adrian Serrano Sanchez, 42, Spain

"THE SMALL SIZE OF THE SCHOOL ENABLES STUDENTS TO EASILY TALK TO EACH OTHER. ALL THE STUDENTS COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, IT IS A WAY TO BE MORE OPEN-MINDED."

Marie-Charlotte Alvard, 26, France

"OUR HOST SHOWED A LOT OF INTEREST IN US AND ASKED A LOT OF QUESTIONS WHICH MADE US FEEL TOTALLY WELCOME. AND THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS AND WELL-BALANCED."

Melanie Huber, 23, Austria

"THEY ARE A VERY LOVELY FAMILY. THEY HELPED ME A LOT AND ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION I HAD. THE HOUSE WAS CLEAN THE WHOLE TIME."

Clarissa Marlene Schwilk, 23, Germany
ENGLISH COURSES

Standard Course
Monday 10:00-13:15 / Tuesday 9:00-14:00 / Wednesday 9:00-12:15 / Thursday 9:00-12:15 / 13:00-14:00 / Friday 9:00-12:15

The Standard course is our most popular program, it focuses on learning through real-life communication (speaking, listening, reading, writing) and is taught in small classes of 12 students maximum, which allows our expert teachers to provide individual feedback and advice on how to improve and further develop language skills. The Standard course includes 20 General English morning lessons + 2 additional afternoon conversation classes per week of 1 hour each, focusing on New York City-themed topics (fashion, art, current events, architecture, culture...). The primary focus of this conversation class will be on improving fluency, pronunciation, and overall conversation skills as well as expanding the students’ vocabulary.

Intensive Course
Monday 10:00-13:15 / Tuesday 9:00-12:15 / 13:15-16:00 / Wednesday 9:00-12:15 / 13:15-16:00 / Thursday 9:00-12:15 / 13:15-16:00 / Friday 9:00-12:15

The Intensive Course is specifically designed for students on an F1 visa who wish to progress at a quicker pace through a more full-time course than the Standard English Course. This is the perfect course for students wishing to take the general program in the morning, supplemented by 10 additional lessons each week in the form of academic electives focused on a specific subject.

BSL offers 4 different levels for the afternoon electives that are available for students taking the Intensive English Course: beginner, low, mid, and high. The beginner level electives are designed for beginner level students. The low level electives are designed for elementary level students. The mid level electives are designed for pre-intermediate and intermediate level students. The high level electives are designed for upper-intermediate and advanced level students.

The electives are designed to supplement the content and skills being learned in the primary morning classes (Standard English course).
ENGLISH COURSES

Business Course
Monday 10:00-13:15 / Tuesday 9:00-12:15 + 13:00-14:00 / Wednesday 9:00-12:15 / Thursday 9:00-12:15 + 13:00-14:00 / Friday 9:00-12:15

Our Business course is designed for upper-intermediate to advanced learners of English: college students, recent graduates, working professionals... Through small classes of 8 students maximum, this course offers an intensive learning environment that focuses on effective business communication and management skills. Experienced Business English trainers provide real-life scenarios and authentic learning materials to practice international business vocabulary and structures in a cooperative and interactive way.

Combined Course
Monday 10:00-13:15 / Tuesday 9:00-12:15 / Wednesday 9:00-12:15 / Thursday 9:00-12:15 / Friday 9:00-12:15.
Individual classes in the afternoon.
This program offers the best of both worlds: the interaction and liveliness of group classes in the morning, and the personal attention of a private teacher in the afternoon. This is a very popular course as it allows students to learn and progress faster with one-on-one attention from their assigned teacher. A needs analysis/interview is conducted prior to the course in order to identify the student’s areas of weakness and to determine the student’s overall goals of the lessons.

Individual tuition
Flexible
Individual tuition is a particular strength of the school. We offer Individual English lessons for personal, academic and/or professional objectives. As each student has their own requirements and goals, we will tailor an English language program to suit their personal needs. This will take into account the time they have, their proficiency level, and their learning style.

“THE TEACHER IS VERY FUNNY, KIND, INTERESTING TO LISTEN TO, IT IS VERY PLEASANT TO FOLLOW THE LESSON. SHE USES THE NEWS TO DISCUSS THE TOPICS IN CLASS.”
Dorentina Emini, 22, Switzerland
ACCOMMODATION – HOMESTAY

One great advantage of studying with BSL is that all of our accommodation options are within a short subway ride (30 minutes on average) from the school.

At BSL, we spend time selecting the right families, we recruit and visit them all ourselves so we know them well and can make quality placements according to our students’ profiles and needs.

A host family can be a couple with children, a retired couple, a single parent, or even a single person. Ethnic diversity is an important aspect of New York’s cultural identity, so some hosts may be of Asian, African, Hispanic or Middle Eastern descent, but English is always spoken in the home.

In a homestay you will be able to share the host family’s lifestyle. You will be welcomed in the home like a member of the family and will experience life in New York as part of an American family.

With the Bed & Breakfast option, breakfast will be included every morning. Other meals are not included, and you will not be able to cook your own meals in the home. This option is best suited for short stays.

With the Half-Board option you will get breakfast and dinner at home every day. You will be expected to respect the family’s meal times, and let them know if you are not able to make it one day. This option is recommended for those who want to make faster progress in English as there will be more opportunities for conversation and linguistic immersion.

The Room Only option allows you to use the host’s kitchen facilities to cook your own meals. This gives you more independence and allows you to live in New York like in a shared house with locals, and sometimes other students from school too. You will not be expected to share meal times and will have more freedom with your schedule, but as always you will need to respect the host’s house rules (quiet times, non-smoking etc...)

"MY HOST IS A VERY WARM-HEARTED WOMAN AND AN EXCELLENT COOK! I’LL GO TO HER AGAIN WHEN I COME NEXT TIME!" CHRISTINA ZURBRUGG, AUSTRIA, 58
**ACCOMMODATION – BSL SHARED STUDENT HOUSE**

This house has a maximum capacity of 4 students and is shared with BSL students only.

Prospect Lefferts Gardens is a charming neighborhood located in the southeast area of Brooklyn. It is a small, quiet and ethnically diverse neighborhood within walking distance of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Brooklyn Museum, and just 30 minutes by direct subway to Manhattan. The best part of being in Lefferts Gardens is undoubtedly its proximity to the beautiful Prospect Park.

The student house is on a tree-lined street just 2 blocks from the park. Shared with other students from Brooklyn School of Languages, this 3bed/1bath apartment boasts an updated kitchen, spacious living room, and big bay windows. You will share the common areas of the house with the other students, and will have full access to the kitchen to cook your own meals.

Bed linens are provided but students should bring their own towels. Wi-Fi is available for free. The house's common areas will be cleaned once a week, students are responsible for the cleanliness and tidiness of their bedroom.

**YOU CAN FIND THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES CLOSE BY:**

- Pharmacy: 8 minute walk
- Laundromat: 6 minute walk
- Convenience store: a variety within 5-minute walk
- Restaurants: a variety (Chinese, Italian, fast food) within a 5-minute walk

**TRANSPORTATION LINKS:**

- Closest subway stop: Sterling St, 7-minute walk (2 train, red line / 5 train, green line)
- Closest bus stop: Rogers Av/Lincoln Rd, less than 3 minute walk (B49)

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**ACCOMMODATION – COLIVING**

The coliving houses have a capacity of 6 to 20 people and are shared with locals and international students.

Coliving, also known as communal living, cohousing or shared living, allows the occupants to build communities around shared spaces like kitchens and living rooms while renting a private or shared bedroom. It is an easy way to find a safe and comfortable place to stay in the City: the houses are new, in easily accessible areas, fully furnished and decorated, and you don’t have to worry about cleaning as the houses are cleaned twice a week.

Each of the houses include one or more kitchens, several bathrooms, common areas and co-working spaces, allowing you plenty of room to cook, work and relax, all while getting to know people from all around the world. People choosing coliving can be international students from English language schools or even New Yorkers working locally.

Your room will be move-in ready, just like the rest of the house; there’s no need to even bring towels. The kitchens are fully stocked with appliances, cookware and everything else you’ll need to cook. The spaces are really big and comfortable in comparison to typical New York City apartments. There is 24/7 security in all common areas, as well as free WiFi available.

**WE OFFER COLIVING HOUSES IN 3 DIFFERENT AREAS:**

- **Bushwick:** an up-and-coming neighborhood in the northern part of Brooklyn, between the trendy neighborhoods of Williamsburg and Bedford-Stuyvesant. The area is known for its colorful street art.
- **Williamsburg:** one of the most popular Brooklyn neighborhoods, known for its trendy restaurants and clubs, indie music performances, art galleries, vintage shops, flea markets and food vendors.
- **Downtown Brooklyn:** a lively area close to school with a creative population, proximity to all transportation, easy access to Manhattan and abundant cultural offerings and restaurants.

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STUDENT LIFE

At BSL we have a dedicated Student Experience Manager whose main duty is to make sure that our students make the most of their time in NYC, by ensuring they are adjusting well to life in the city and offering them a wide range of activities to attend. The School Director also gets involved in the school’s social activities: he often participates in happy hours or lunches, leads walking tours, accompanies students to sports games… and is generally available to answer any questions they have.

Our social program includes a variety of activities and excursions representing the diversity available in New York: museums, exhibitions, sport events, concerts, festivals, movie nights, walking tours of iconic locations or famous buildings… Activities are optional and students are welcome to sign up at school.

A typical week in a BSL student’s life can include: a walking tour of Brooklyn Heights and the Brooklyn Bridge on Tuesday, Happy Hour with the other BSL students and the Student Experience Manager on Wednesday, a baseball game on Thursday and a BSL lunch on Friday after the lessons with the other students.

The Student Experience Manager also compiles weekly lists of things to do in the city to make sure our students never miss an exciting event or an opportunity to explore the city: temporary or one-off events, festivals, what not to miss, what to do that’s free, where to shop, which museums are free etc… These recommendations help our students make the most of their stay in NY and often allow them to discover places or attend events they would not have heard of otherwise.

“I MADE MANY GOOD FRIENDS THROUGH THE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND TRIED TO BE WITH THEM ALL THE TIME TO SPEAK ENGLISH. THERE ARE NOT SO MANY STUDENTS SO WE ARE ABLE TO TALK TO EVERYONE, I LIKED IT.”
Ayano Enda, 29, Japan
JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP

Brooklyn School of Languages also runs a Summer Junior Program for 13-17 year olds, from June 28th to August 8th 2020.

Our Junior program is an immersion program that includes 15 hours of English per week, full-board accommodation in twin rooms and a complete schedule of activities and excursions, supervised by experienced leaders, to discover New York City. Students can choose to stay in a host family in Brooklyn (average 30 minutes to school by subway) or in our student residence in Brooklyn Heights, 10 minutes walk to school. A "Course and Activities" option (no accommodation) and a "Course Only" option (English lessons only) are also available.

Please refer to our Junior Brochure for more details.

YEAR-ROUND GROUPS

We can welcome closed groups at any time of the year. We cater to groups of any size, any age and any level. Groups are taught in small groups of 12 students maximum per class.

The lessons as well as the activity program are tailor-made to your group’s needs and requirements, so let us know what you want to see and do in NYC!

Please refer to our Groups Brochure for more details.

DISCOUNTED LOW-SEASON OFFERS FOR MINI-STAYS IN NEW YORK BETWEEN OCTOBER AND APRIL

"I ENJOYED THE ENGLISH COURSE, THE LESSONS WERE GOOD AND THE VIEW IS INCREDIBLE!
I liked my teacher and I progressed with the vocabulary of New York."

Student from French closed group, April 2019.

Please refer to our Junior Brochure for more details.

Please refer to our Groups Brochure for more details.

HOMESTAY AND RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Top of the Rock
Brooklyn Bridge
Certificates at school
Brooklyn Heights
Statue of Liberty