

BSL OUTDOOR COURSES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is BSL an accredited school?

A: Yes we are accredited by the [CEA](#) and we are also a member of [IALC](#), both of which have very high-quality standards for the schools they are representing.

Q: Are all your teachers qualified, native speakers?

A: Every BSL instructor has – at a minimum – a Bachelor's degree in TESOL, linguistics, or a related field, and a TEFL/TESOL/CELTA certificate. Before being selected to work at BSL, our teachers are first interviewed face-to-face by the Academic and Programs Manager or School Director and are then required to give a teaching demonstration class, thus ensuring they possess both the necessary teaching and native-level English language skills.

Q: When do outdoor classes take place?

A: BSL's Outdoor courses take place between May 03rd and October 29th, 2021.

Q: Where do they take place?

A: All morning classes will take place in outdoor locations in well-researched venues showcasing the best of New York. So instead of being in a room with 4 walls, students will learn in places such as Brooklyn Bridge Park, Bryant Park, the Conservatory Garden in Central Park, and many more. The city will become the students' classroom!

Q: Will there be no classes inside at all?

A: Students booked on the Standard Course will have all their classes outdoors. Students booked on the Intensive or Combined Courses will have their morning lessons outdoors, and their afternoon lessons in our Language Center. Classes will also revert to indoor locations on rainy days.

Q: Will it be comfortable for the students? Will there be toilets?

A: Yes and yes! Locations have been carefully chosen based on comfort, space, ease of access, and proximity of public toilets. They will take place in the shaded and quieter areas of some of New York's best parks and gardens, in small classes of 8 students maximum (average 5). Students will seat around a table, in semi-circular seating, or in a row on park seating – no seating in the grass! You can find out more on our [Outdoor Classrooms pdf](#).

Q: How will teachers be able to teach without a traditional classroom and a blackboard?

A: Teachers will be able to continue to carry out our current BSL teaching [methodology](#) with this new outdoor concept. Teachers will utilize the coursebook, supplementary materials, and mini-whiteboards to target key grammar and vocabulary points throughout each class. They will also use technology in the form of iPads and smartphones to further engage students throughout each lesson, just like with our previous indoor classes. Students will also continue to complete homework assignments regularly and be assessed on course language objectives weekly.

Q: What are the benefits of an outdoor class?

A: Although our outdoor classes will be taught very similarly to our previous indoor classes, there are many added benefits to taking our classes outside! Since classes will predominantly take place outdoors throughout the city, students will naturally be immersed in NYC life and culture. NYC related topics and destinations will be incorporated into the class curriculum by utilizing weekly educational and cultural field trips as well as with the daily outdoor classroom destinations. Students will be in the unique position to improve their English, expand their knowledge about NYC, be able to practice their English in truly authentic NYC settings, and live like a true New Yorker!

Q: Will there be homework?

A: Yes, just like in a regular classroom setting. In addition, students will complete coursebook assignments, participate in pair work and discussion, and will get the added bonus of a hands-on approach to learning about NYC.

Q: What happens if it rains?

A: On the rare days when it rains in the morning or if it gets too hot, classes will switch to one of our carefully selected indoor venues or be taken on one of our many cultural or educational field trips located in indoor locations. New York City is full of great museums and semi-secret indoor public spaces.

Q: What about the COVID sanitary measures?

A: This is one of the advantages of being outdoors: students will make the most of the space and natural airflow rather than being inside in a crowded classroom and using Air Conditioning. Students and teachers will have ample room to socially-distance. We recommend that each student brings a mask and a small bottle of hydroalcoholic gel to sanitize their hands as often as needed.

Q: How far will the accommodation be?

A: Our homestays are located in Brooklyn, 25 to 45 minutes to where the class takes place, depending on the location of the class each day. We alternate between locations in Brooklyn and Manhattan for our lessons so that you don't have to travel to Manhattan every morning.

We also offer Coliving options (shared apartments) in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Please check our [Housing](#) page for more details.

Q: What can I do after classes? Are there school activities organized?

A: There is plenty to do and see in New York so you will never get bored! We organize 2 to 3 [social activities](#) per week which you are welcome to join (walking tours, happy hours, lunches, museums...) and we give you plenty of suggestions of things to do in your free time (famous sights, hidden gems, festivals, markets...).

Our daily location guides also include many cool ideas for things to do and places to visit in the area after class.

Q: What if I am no longer able to travel to NY due to my government's (or the USA's) COVID policies?

Can I get my money back?

A: Yes. You can book with peace of mind knowing that we will refund your course in full should you be unable to travel due to COVID. We just ask that you give us enough notice when you cancel: 72 hours for a course only booking (i.e. the Friday before the course starts), 7 days if you have booked homestay, and 21 days if you have booked a Coliving apartment.



Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn Heights



Domino Park, Williamsburg

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