

EAQUALS is an international association of schools which has the primary aim of encouraging and accrediting high quality in language teaching and learning. Members include any type of institution, whatever languages are being taught, and whatever the national context. Because of this, EAQUALS focuses on supporting excellence in all aspects of provision rather than on direct support for marketing.

Founded in 1991, EAQUALS is now internationally recognised and respected for its quality standards and for its accreditation services. Accredited Members of EAQUALS offer a consistently high standard of language education that meet the language learning needs of their students and clients worldwide.

Apart from its Accredited Members in 22 countries, EAQUALS has a number of Associate Members, including the British Council, Cambridge ESOL, Trinity College, and IH World Organisation, as well as the Goethe-Institut, Instituto Cervantes and 11 national associations of language schools. In addition, there are formal relationships with the Council of Europe, the European Centre for Modern Languages, the Association of Language Testers in Europe, and the International Organization for Standardization, ISO.

EAQUALS provides the primary international forum for discussion and development of quality and expertise in language teaching and learning.

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Services for Language Schools in the UK

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# WHAT CAN EAQUALS OFFER LANGUAGE SCHOOLS IN THE UK?

## 1. Distinctive accreditation focusing on quality of provision

EAQUALS members make a public commitment to excellence by signing up to specific promises laid out in the EAQUALS Charters. These charters are displayed in EAQUALS schools and underpin the accreditation criteria.

The UK language travel industry has its own well-established arrangements for accreditation, and the criteria overlap with the EAQUALS system. But there are some key differences:

- The UK scheme is tailored to UK conditions. The EAQUALS scheme is international and encompasses the teaching and learning of any language. There is thus a natural link between schools accredited in the UK and those outside the UK.
- The UK scheme doubles as a registration scheme for UK immigration purposes. As a result, the number of providers accredited through the UK scheme is very large and the distinctive value of quality accreditation is diluted. The EAQUALS scheme is not constrained by any such regulatory function. For UK members of EAQUALS, international accreditation shows attention to quality over and above minimum requirements

## 2. Well-grounded support for educational quality in ELT

EAQUALS has played a leading role in the introduction of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) in language education. This experience, together with the introduction of EAQUALS Certificates of Achievement for learners completing CEFR-aligned courses, has given EAQUALS unique expertise in the practical application of the CEFR for planning, teaching and assessment in language learning. EAQUALS Members can obtain tailored support in these areas. For UK schools, this support is especially relevant due to the requirements of the UK Government concerning the minimum language level needed to obtain a student visa.

## 3. An active international network

EAQUALS has accredited members teaching 14 languages in 22 countries and runs two international meetings a year. Members also collaborate on Special Interest Projects to produce tangible aids for members. Examples of current projects include:

- The validation of assessment procedures related to the CEFR for certification purposes
- A framework for in-service teacher training and development
- A core curriculum for English cross-referenced to up-to-date ELT course books (in conjunction with the British Council).

## WHAT UK DIRECTORS HAVE TO SAY



**Judy MacDermot** Director,  
English Language Centre, York, EAQUALS Accredited Member

*"We are constantly striving for excellence in our work, and membership of EAQUALS seemed to be the very best way of demonstrating this to our clients. Its integrity as a demanding accreditation scheme, and its inclusiveness of all schools that can demonstrate true quality, appealed to us. Also, the demanding standards required to join the Association make EAQUALS a very attractive organisation for centres of excellence. I have been delighted by the recognition it has given to us and gratified by the growing number of clients who are sufficiently well-informed to discern what EAQUALS accreditation means."*



**Michael Fullarton**, Head of Schools,  
Eurocentres, EAQUALS Founder Member

*"EAQUALS gives a language training provider the opportunity to show the market that they believe in more than minimum standards and have a commitment to the continuous development of excellence. In addition, for an organisation that has several centres like ours, EAQUALS provides an effective way of assuring the same high quality across all its centres. EAQUALS complements the Accreditation UK scheme by laying emphasis on academic quality and thus encouraging schools to reflect on best practice."*

**Justin Vollmer**, Deputy Director,  
International House London, EAQUALS Founder Member

*"International House London helped to found EAQUALS because we share the principles of quality and transparency on which EAQUALS is based. The EAQUALS inspection scheme is efficient and extremely useful both in maintaining standards and in helping to raise them well above the norm for the industry. For schools like ours providing courses in many languages, the international dimension of EAQUALS allows us to evaluate and improve delivery in all areas, not just in the teaching of English. EAQUALS offers schools the chance to get involved with moving the industry forward in many areas, most recently in assessment and certification. Many staff have benefited from the conferences, projects and inspector-training run by EAQUALS."*

**Kevin McNally**, Managing Director,  
Hampstead School, London, EAQUALS Accredited Member

*"We are proud members of EAQUALS as our membership helps us stand out as a school that puts quality first and always strives to offer excellence. The EAQUALS inspections are a great opportunity for assessment and improvement, and constitute one of our most important benchmarks. We find the professional networking and business development opportunities provided by the international dimension of EAQUALS of great benefit."*

