ACCESS UK
Living and learning in the UK

Feature analysis

Content

Access UK focuses on the language and guidance that international students need to adapt to living in the UK. There is a particular emphasis on spoken skills and vocabulary for practical and social situations. The program comes as a classroom version, with teachers' notes and downloadable worksheets, or in a self access version with videos and interactive activities.

Topics include:

- Health, including the procedures for visiting a doctor in the UK
- Accommodation, including issues of security in and around student halls of residence
- Casual Employment, including employment regulations for EU and non-EU students
- Support and Guidance, including places to get advice, rules and regulations, managing money
- Transport, including public transport and buying a bicycle
- Communications: letters, parcels, mobiles, texts, Skype
- A Day Out, including student societies, meeting people and developing relationships
- An Evening Out, including eating and drinking in the UK and personal security when out at night

Ten key learning features

1. Supports international students in the day-to-day situations they will encounter.
2. Language focus on vocabulary and spoken interaction.
3. Carefully researched information on practicalities of living in the UK, includes weblinks to key support sites for international and local students.
4. Videos of authentic situations featuring international students. Videos all shot in and around a UK campus.
5. Audio to model key language. The integrated Clarity recorder enables students to repeat, record, play back and listen.
6. Visuals provide cultural backdrop.
7. Classroom version enables active viewing through discussion, speculation and role play, and includes teachers' notes and downloadable worksheets for use in class.
8. A wide range of English voices, both native and non-native; RP and regional
9. Stories and characters learners can identify with.
10. Suitable for pre-departure, so students arrive with a solid understanding of what to expect, or as in-sessional support.

Download features and links

The classroom version includes downloadable and photocopiable worksheets which you can use for classwork or homework activities. The classroom version additionally has direct links to teachers' notes, videos and model audio clips. Both versions have links to websites, where learners have to operate in an authentic English environment, and can search for information relevant to their own situation.

Progress features

The Access UK Progress function generates reports on completed activities within the interactive activities, with score, time, duration; average scores compared with all learners; relative performance in different units (effort and outcome).

Teachers using Results Manager can generate and print reports for individual learners and groups of learners.

Integrated programs

Access UK (optionally) integrates with Author Plus, which enables teachers to add, delete, reorder and amend activities, and with Results Manager (see *Progress features* above).

Technical

Online versions are hosted by Clarity and require Flash 10.1 on the user's computer. The interactive activities are SCORM 1.2 compliant and will integrate with Blackboard and Moodle. Access is usually set up through a link in a password-protected area of the institution's website. It can also be through ClarityEnglish.com.

THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

Clarity