



Learn About Britain Orientation and Integration for Refugees and Asylum Seekers Workshop Content Structure and Learning Outcomes

Learn About Britain is a charity educating young people and new migrants to the UK about British history, citizenship, culture and values. We were set up by Joe Hayman, the author of two books about the UK. Joe has developed and delivered an orientation and integration programme of educational workshops and outings for refugees and asylum seekers in Brent (funded by the local authority) and Maidenhead (funded by a local charity) which are now looking to deliver more widely.

Programme content

Our programme can be tailored to the needs of the group we are working with but typically covers:

Understanding the UK – Systems, Services and Everyday Life: This workshop introduces how the UK is structured and governed, including how key systems and services operate, and supports participants to navigate them with confidence. The workshop helps participants to:

- Understand the structure of the UK and key institutions
- Understand how the UK is governed, including monarchy, democracy and central government
- Recognise the role of key institutions such as government departments and the police
- Understand how responsibilities are divided between national and local government
- Distinguish between Home Office and Local Authority responsibilities

Culture, Communication and Everyday Behaviour: This workshop supports participants to understand cultural norms, communicate effectively in everyday situations and understand how behaviour can be interpreted. When they have completed this session, participants will be able to:

- Communicate appropriately in everyday situations and adjusting based on context
- Ask for help clearly and explain a problem to services
- Recognise expected public behaviour and avoid behaviour that may be seen as inappropriate
- Understand 'unwritten rules' and respond appropriately to misunderstandings or conflict
- Recognise discrimination, identify hate incidents and know how to report them
- Decide when a situation requires emergency services (999) vs non-emergency support

Workshop 3: Money, Everyday Essentials, Local Activities and Services: This workshop supports participants to manage money, understand where and how to access essential support, networks, activities and services. By the end of the session, participants are able to:

- Manage a basic weekly budget and prioritise essential spending
- Identify and access food banks and community food services
- Access food, clothing and other support from places of worship/community groups
- Find and access local services (libraries, community centres, support organisations)
- Identify and take part in free local activities (community groups, courses, volunteering)
- Build connections and access informal support networks

Workshops 4-5: Health and Housing: Generally delivered with local public health and housing teams, these workshops support participants to access health and housing services, making decisions based on their needs. By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Understand which health services are available where and how to navigate them
- Access mental health support, substance use, sexual health, family planning services
- Decide when a situation requires urgent care and when it does not
- Understand who is responsible for their accommodation
- Communicate effectively with accommodation providers (e.g. reporting faults/concerns)
- Recognise unsafe situations and know how to report them

Workshop 6: Moving forward: This workshop focuses on preparing participants for life in the UK, particularly work, education and long-term housing. By the end of the session, participants will:

- Understand what happens if their asylum application is granted
- Identify next steps (finding housing, applying for support)
- Recognise the limited time available to secure accommodation
- Know how to prepare to find a job or apply for a study programme
- Identify key steps they can take to get themselves ready for the future (e.g. ESOL classes)

Completion of the programme: we end our programmes with one or more outings through which we help participants understand and feel confident in their locality and explore nearby sites of interest, while also learning to navigate using public transport. Those participants who successfully complete the programme receive certificates from Learn About Britain in a 'graduation ceremony'.



For more information, visit www.learnaboutbritain.uk or email joe@learnaboutbritain.uk