



**British  
Language  
Centre**  
*Training for the future*

# British Language Centre

## ----- School Profile -----

The British Language Centre is one of the biggest CELTA / DELTA / TEFL training academies in Europe and it is by far the most active in Madrid, Spain. As such, it has plenty of teachers to choose from, from amongst those it trains on their teacher training courses, for their regular English classes in the academy itself and in companies.

It is probably as good an option as any for teachers new to the profession that want to put in a few years with a company that will give them solid training and support. The impression I get from BLC is that they have got their noses firmly pressed to the grindstone and their ambitions set high. In the past few months, I have been asking around to get some feedback from other teachers locally and more than one has recommended BLC to me (some quite enthusiastically, I have to admit, albeit for the DELTA course). BLC is a well-respected academy among academies and teachers here and working there would be a good starting point for any young teacher.



### **Address:**

British Language Centre  
C/Bravo Murillo 377, 2º  
28020 Madrid, Spain

Located in "Plaza Castilla," right in the heart of Madrid's business district, the British Language Centre is about 2 minutes from a large bus station, serving most of the Northern part of the Community of Madrid, and from Madrid's longest subway (underground) line (one stop down from Chamartin train station).

### **Information on academy:**

**Academy:** British Language Centre

**Webpage:** <http://www.british-blc.com/>

**When did the academy open?** 1984.

**Contact person and title:** Alistair Dickinson, Director of Teacher Education

**Contact phone:** (00 34) 91 733 0739

**E-mail:** [ted@british-blc.com](mailto:ted@british-blc.com)

### **Facilities and classrooms:**

There are 17 classrooms in the Plaza Castilla centre. There are a few more in their young learners' neighbourhood centre in "Barrio del Pilar." There are also three computers for the staff in the staffroom connected to the Internet via a local area network (LAN) with an ADSL (high speed) connection.

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**Have good materials support, photocopier?**

There are definitely more than enough materials to choose from. The Centre's teachers have direct access to the staffroom photocopier. Not so for the teachers doing the course. However, the academy collects all the materials to be photocopied for every session and does it for the teachers.



**Have "Director of Studies" support?**

There are two Directors of Studies: one for the centre's classes and another for the company's. There is, of course, also a Director of Studies for the training department.

**VIPs on staff?**

None currently. However, "Henny Burke" and "Gregory Scanlan" (the two DOSes) are currently at work with Cambridge University Press on a course book.

**Employment Information:  
Qualification requirements for employment?**

The British Language Centre requires at least a CELTA. There is a [CELTA - TEFL certification course](#) offered by the "British Language Centre." All the trainers have DELTAs.

**Experience requirements for employment?**  
None. Having done the CELTA at BLC seems to hold more weight. Being able to choose from among the best of 120 and 150 teachers yearly has its advantages.

**Hire at a distance?**

BLC does not hire at a distance. "There are plenty of teachers off the CELTA course," says Alistair Dickinson, Director of the teacher education department.

**Hire Americans and do their papers?**

The British Language Centre has Americans on staff, but they have a management company that handles the paperwork and could not give me any more details on the process.

**Preference for British or Americans?**

None apparently.



**Estimated teachers hired yearly:** 30-40.

**Teachers at British Language Centre for over 4 years?**

There are at least 6: two that have been there for 20 years, one for 16, one for 15, one for 12, one for 10, etc.

**Number of students:**

2,000 total students per year - children and adults in the centres and in companies.

**Best part about working at the British Language Centre?**

The atmosphere and the people are great and as the centre is smaller, it is more intimate.



**Other benefits?**

There is a lot of stability and a very large training department behind the teachers.

**Offer teacher training or development along with job?**

Yes. Other short courses include the Pre-Diploma, Teaching the Younger Learner, An Intro to ELT, Developing Phonology, Using Literature in the Classroom, Language Awareness, etc. Of course, if you do get on at BLC, definitely consider doing the DELTA while you can.

**Starters' average salary?**

The British Language Centre pays 1,000 euros per month for 24 hours of class work per week.

## **BLC CELTA and DELTA courses**

The BLC is one of the biggest English language training academies in Europe and the most active in Madrid, Spain. They have been offering the CELTAs (Certificate in English Language Teaching) every month since 1989, as well as plenty of other training courses. To date, they have trained over 2,300 CELTA teachers and 350 DELTA teachers. The BLC definitely looks like the centre that is the most interested in teacher education and training in Madrid, Spain, and they have definitely made a big effort to be the "man-on-top" in this sector.

<http://www.british-blc.com>

**Calle Bravo Murillo 377, 2º**

[Google Maps](#)

[ted@british-blc.com](mailto:ted@british-blc.com)

**34 91 733 0739**

**Recognition of the Centre (and Certificate)**

As far as I can see, this is one of the best-known schools for teacher training in Madrid, and a couple of teachers, including a TESOL convention staff member, talked them up to me at this years' convention.

BLC runs at least ten people through its CELTA full-time intensive courses every month as well as doing another 2 or 3 part-time extensive CELTA courses yearly for a total of more or less 150 CELTA teachers trained annually.

**Training Staff and Course**

I have a close friend who did the DELTA at the British Language Centre who often recommended it to me while he was doing it (actually, he just about twisted my arm to get me down there). He told me that the teacher in charge, Alistair Dickinson, also had a webpage at

