Your Future Begins In Chicago

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www.birtraining.edu
About BIR Training Center

If your goal is university study, a job in the international economy, or the fostering of cultural and intellectual interests, BIR Training Center wants to serve as your avenue for achievement. We are committed to providing an education that strengthens your ability to reach your academic and professional goals.

A word from BIR director
Irene Zakon

A team of excellence

BIR’s diverse team of instructors, counselors, and staff has the patience, understanding, and ability to help international students make significant progress in English fluency. Our well qualified instructors are native speakers with advanced degrees in teaching English as a second language and linguistics. Our multilingual counselors and supportive staff are on hand to help students adjust to and thrive in the United States.

At BIR you are not just enrolling in a school, you are becoming part of a dynamic community. Whether you are in the classroom, on a field trip, or polishing up your skills in our Learning Center, you can be assured that you will be supported and encouraged by a dedicated team of professionals.
### Three BIR Locations

Our three campuses are situated in unique and attractive areas around the city.

**Loop Campus** is in the heart of downtown and surrounded by bustling city life.

**Devon Campus** is located on the north side in a quiet residential neighborhood.

**Belmont Campus** is located northwest of downtown in a vibrant European immigrant community. All of our locations are accessible by Chicago’s extensive public transportation.

### Housing Options

There are a variety of housing options available for international students, such as campus dorms, staying with friends or relatives, apartments, or homestays. With BIR’s homestay program a student lives in the home of an American host family. This arrangement provides students with the opportunity to improve their English skills outside of class, feel secure in a new environment, and experience American culture first hand.
Our comprehensive English Language Program is built around the vital elements of learning the language. Lectures are dedicated to intensive skill development, workshops give students the opportunity to broaden their English learning, and our Learning Center provides individual and small group tutoring. It all adds up to an unforgettable learning experience in the heart of Chicago.

**Lectures**

Each seven-week course includes lectures that focus intensively on one of the English language skill areas: conversation, reading, and writing. BIR’s approach includes vocabulary building and grammar into every lecture. Students improve in academic and everyday English in order to prepare for university, the workplace, and social settings.

### English Language Introductory Program

**Program Info**
- 4 meetings per week
- 8 - 52 weeks
- Customizable Summer Term
- Individual student path may vary

### English Language Bridge Program

**Program Info**
- 4 meetings per week
- 8 - 52 weeks
- Customizable Summer Term
- Individual student path may vary
Workshops

Depending on their interests, students can take workshops and obtain certificates in the following exciting areas:

- Business English
- Medical English
- English for Computers
- Nursing Exam Preparation

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Learning Center

Students in the English Language and TOEFL Preparation can take advantage of BIR’s Learning Center, our library and tutoring facility. The Learning Center staff provides students with one-to-one or small group tutoring in a variety of subjects. Tutoring allows students to focus on individual needs and customize their language learning process. Students can bring their own materials and study independently or use materials from BIR’s extensive library of books, magazines, newspapers and dictionaries.
The TOEFL Internet-Based Test (iBT) is one of today’s most popular tools for measuring a student’s English fluency. A strong score on the exam is a sign to universities and employers that you are ready to succeed in a fast-paced English-speaking environment. TOEFL preparation at BIR not only offers you two pathways to a high score, but also an unforgettable experience that will remain with you throughout your academic and professional pursuits.

BIR’s blended learning system, affordable tuition, and flexible scheduling are a perfect fit for English language learners. Throughout the TOEFL®iBT Preparation program, special focus is put on speed, accuracy, and higher score results. You can take advantage of BIR’s reference materials, on-line resources, and one-on-one instruction from knowledgeable tutors. And because BIR is an official ETS testing site, you can actually take the TOEFL®iBT at one of our campuses.

Two Paths to Success

Standard / Accelerated

- 7 start dates a year
- 4 meetings a week
- Standard Program includes vacations
- Accelerated Program is continuous study
- 8 - 60 weeks
- Individual student path may vary

Intensive

- Prequisite: TOEFL Gateway module or test at an advanced level
- 3 start dates a year
- 8 meetings a week
- Continuous study
- 8 - 22 weeks
- Individual student path may vary
TOEFL Preparation Classes

The Right Skills

Many of the skills and techniques acquired in BIR’s TOEFL®iBT Preparation Program are applicable to other standardized tests like the TOEIC, IELTS, GRE, and NCLEX.

87% of BIR students rated the Test Preparation Program as highly effective.

ETS AUTHORIZED TOEFL®iBT CENTER

BIR is an authorized TOEFL®iBT testing center for Educational Testing Service (ETS).
In addition to our English and TOEFL courses, BIR provides career training that responds to a wide range of students’ needs. Our goal is to give students the advantages they need to secure jobs in their fields of study or pursue further education. BIR believes in education that blends real-world experience with a theoretical base. International students can train in one of BIR’s four certificate programs for up to three years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Detail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assisting</td>
<td>▸ Take the NCLEX exam to become a US-certified nurse and help doctors in a clinical setting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Information Technology</td>
<td>▸ Become a certified and manage patient records in medical offices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computerized Manufacturing (CNC)</td>
<td>▸ Gain skills in programming CAD and CAM on CNC machines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computerized Office Support</td>
<td>▸ Train in accounting and learn office computer systems used in today’s competitive workplace.</td>
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</table>
When can I Start? *

- **Academic Year 09-10**
  - **SPRING**
    - Term 2: May 4, 2009
  - **SUMMER**
    - Term 1: July 1, 2009
  - **FALL**
    - Term 1: Aug 24, 2009
    - Term 2: Oct 12, 2009
  - **WINTER**
    - Term 1: Nov 30, 2009
    - Term 2: Jan 24, 2010
  - **SPRING**
    - Term 1: Mar 15, 2010
    - Term 2: May 3, 2010
  - **SUMMER**
    - Term 1: July 1, 2010

- The maximum length of study for the English and TOEFL programs is 28 months.
- Courses run for 7 or 8 weeks depending on holidays.

What is the Cost? *

- **English Language Programs and TOEFL®iBT Preparation Standard/Accelerated Path**
  - **Length of Study**
    - 8 weeks: $800
    - 15 weeks: $1600
    - 22 weeks: $2400
    - 30 weeks: $3200
    - 38 weeks: $4000

- **TOEFL®ibt Preparation Intensive Path**
  - 8 weeks: $1600
  - 15 weeks: $2400
  - 22 weeks: $4800

- **Additional Fees**
  - **Fee Name**
    - International Student Processing: $250
    - Sevis I-901: $200
    - Enrollment Fee: $80
    - Security Deposit: $500

- Tuition covers group lessons, individual instructions, use of facilities, and educational services.

* 08-09 tuition prices and fee amounts are effective through 06/30/09
# How do I Apply?

## Becoming a BIR Student

These are the general guidelines for becoming a BIR student if you are currently in your home country. When you apply to study at BIR a counselor who is proficient in your native language will be assigned to you. Once your application is accepted, BIR will create an I-20 (initial entry form) and send it to you.

## Visa Interview

Your initial Entry Visa Interview at a US embassy/consulate can take place up to 120 days before the program start date. Contact your local U.S. embassy or consulate for additional documents and fees ([http://usembassy.state.gov](http://usembassy.state.gov)).

## Application Process

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<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Icon Key</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 1    | BIR     | BIR's Application  
Fill it out online ([www.birtraining.com/Apply.aspx](http://www.birtraining.com/Apply.aspx)) or mail to BIR's Devon Campus |
| 2    | Visa    | I-20  
Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant Student form. Issued by BIR |
| 3    | Visa    | DS-156, DS-157, DS-158  
Non-immigrant Visa Application Forms |
|      | Passport| Passport  
Must be valid for 6 months from the day of entry to the US |
|      | $       | Financial Documentation  
Evidence of funds to cover tuition and living expenses during study in the US |
|      | I-94    | I-94  
Arrival/Departure Record. This is given out in the airplane before landing in the US |
|      | Visa    | Visa  
A valid visa with your SEVIS identification number and the name of the school you will be attending (BIR) Issued by Embassy |
|      | DS-156, DS-157, DS-158 | DS-156, DS-157, DS-158  
Non-immigrant Visa Application Forms |

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*เอกสารที่ต้องแสดง*
Visa Interview

When you are granted a US entrance visa, please notify BIR of your expected arrival date. You must contact BIR within 15 days of arriving in the US. You should arrive no more than 30 days before your program start date.

Useful Links

- [www.birtraining.edu/Apply.aspx](http://www.birtraining.edu/Apply.aspx) - BIR’s apply online application
- [www.f1studentvisa.com](http://www.f1studentvisa.com) - An information site about the F-1 student visa hosted by BIR
- [www.hooyou.com/f-1/FAQ011303.html](http://www.hooyou.com/f-1/FAQ011303.html) - Useful answers to common questions about the F-1 visa process provided by the law firm of Zhang & Associates.
- [www.birtraining.edu/Apply.aspx](http://www.birtraining.edu/Apply.aspx) - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Academic History</th>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Program of study description</th>
<th>I-94</th>
<th>Sevis Fee and Receipt</th>
<th>Machine Readable Visa (MRV) Fee and Receipt</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Copies of transcripts and/or diplomas from your previous schools</td>
<td>Your living information while you stay in the US</td>
<td>Arrivial/Departure Record. This is given out in the airplane before landing in the US</td>
<td></td>
<td>Can be paid through BIR or fmjfee.com</td>
<td>See website of your local embassy for payment details</td>
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- [www.f1studentvisa.com](http://www.f1studentvisa.com) - An information site about the F-1 student visa hosted by BIR
- [www.hooyou.com/f-1/FAQ011303.html](http://www.hooyou.com/f-1/FAQ011303.html) - Useful answers to common questions about the F-1 visa process provided by the law firm of Zhang & Associates.
- [www.birtraining.edu/Apply.aspx](http://www.birtraining.edu/Apply.aspx) - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
“The schedule at BIR allows you to choose which days and hours you want to study. The workshops offer a variety of interesting topics, like Yoga and Meditation. I also enjoy the Learning Center and being able to work one-on-one with the tutors.”

Francisco Sanchez  
Caelaya, Mexico

“I felt that BIR provided a great opportunity to prepare for and take the TOEFL exam. The skill-based approach of the TOEFL classes is unique, gave me confidence, and helped to improve my scores. BIR is a great place to start if you plan on continuing your education in the U.S.”

Karolina Radziszewska  
Sulęcin, Poland

“I like how you can register online and learn about the instructor’s background and degrees, and then choose if you want to have class with them or not. During the summer workshops I got the chance to explore Chicago. BIR has many campuses in Chicago and all of them give you internet access.”

Vatcharapong Plaipoo  
Bangkok, Thailand

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6240 W. Belmont Ave. Chicago, IL 60634 USA

828 S. Wabash Ave. Chicago, IL 60605 USA