

# English for Interfaith Dialogue - EID

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Connect. Engage. Dialogue.

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## Background:

English for Interfaith Dialogue is a continuation of The British Council partnership with Al-Azhar, which started back in 2007, to help building the English Language, communication and leadership skills of teachers and students.

Our work with Al-Azhar contributes to the British Council's cultural relations mission. In 2015, Sir Ciarán Devane said of the Al-Azhar-British Council partnership that 'Having a revered Islamic institution like Al-Azhar using English is invaluable and the British Council is extremely proud of our partnership.'

English for Interfaith Dialogue project involves scaling up our work with Al-Azhar and position the British Council at the forefront of cultural relations in the area of supporting interfaith and intercultural dialogue through educational programmes.



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## Objectives:

**Build** knowledge and expertise in connection between language and interfaith dialogue through the research and development of English for Interfaith Dialogue (EID) training, teaching, and learning programmes in partnership with Al-Azhar and UK sector specialists.

**Raise** competencies of Al-Azhar teachers in delivering high quality English for interfaith and intercultural dialogue teaching and training programme interventions and position the British Council as a frontrunner in thought leadership through publications and conferences which highlight good practice in the teaching and learning of English through interfaith dialogue.

**Embed** EID programmes in the British Council – Al-Azhar English Training Centre in Cairo, and roll these programmes out in other Al-Azhar colleges in Egypt, other religious institutions in Egypt as well as other contexts where there is interest, such as Indonesia, Morocco and Palestine.



## EID Curriculum:

The new curriculum 'English for Interfaith Dialogue' was piloted at Al-Azhar English training Centre in Cairo to excellent feedback.

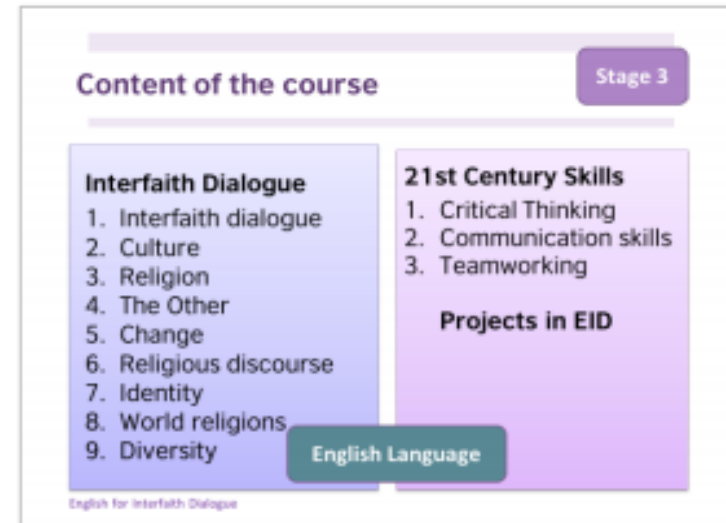
The content develops both **English language skills and skills for dialogue.**

## EID current resources:

- EID B1, B2 & C levels student learning material
- EID Facilitator training material
- Online course for teachers "Dialogue in the Learning Classroom"

## The content and structure of the course

### PPT Slide 7



There are four parts to the programme:

- English language
- 9 interfaith dialogue topics
- 3 skills topics
- Projects in EID

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## EID UK 2020

2-8 February 2020, London

The first British Council-led delegation of Azhari scholars, educators, and leaders to the UK to **engage** in an **intercultural exchange** and **interfaith dialogue** – as part of the English for Interfaith Dialogue (EID) programme.

Over 5-days, we **connected** our delegates with academic, religious, and political circles in the UK, taking them on a learning journey and exposing them to **new conversations and perspectives**.

Watch the visit video [here](#).







## English for Interfaith Dialogue

20 Delegates 5 Days of Learning



3 Themes



6 Visits



2 Partners



12 Seminars



1 Mission: Connect.Engage.Dialogue



# EID UK 2020

EID UK 2020 exchange visit is part of the British Council's 'English for Interfaith Dialogue' programme, offered in partnership with Al-Azhar since 2007.



Digital reach: **50,000**



Hashtag: **#EIDUK2020**

### Supporting

- UN SDG 4, 10, 16, 17    
- Egypt Vision 2030 Pillar 5, 7, 8 
- World Interfaith Harmony Week 

### Outcomes:

- Improved understanding of 'the other'.
- Established relationships between Al-Azhar and UK institutions.
- Enhanced capacity for policy, systems, practice-level dialogue.

“ From head-to-head debate into a space of people-to-people **connection**.

**Rose Castle Foundation**

“ Supporting EID facilitators to deliver **interfaith dialogue** in the classroom and in their wider context.

**LSE Faith Centre**

“ **Dialogue** over debate and the importance of **listening and understanding** others before speaking.

**Nik Peachey**

“ A rich encounter that resources **young leaders** for **confident engagements** with religious **diversity**.

**Lambeth Palace**

“ The intersection between **English, scriptural reasoning** and **twenty first century skills** is stunning.

**Azhari Teacher**

“ A platform for serious **dialogue** and mutual **appreciation** between people of **faith**.

**Azhari Researcher**

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## Current Evidence

### EID Students Survey:

**92.6%** are more interested in learning about other faiths and cultures.

**92.5%** can better use their English skills to engage with people from other backgrounds

**93.8%** value the role of EID in developing more open, understanding societies

It would be great if such trainings are repeated with the students, so they have a real IFD chance to apply what they are learning nowadays.

Teacher on EID UK 2020

I started reading and watching videos about different groups of faith after I started my journey with the EID because I wanted to learn more about the interfaith dialogue and beliefs that are out of my zone.

EID Student

The amount of time spent on inside class projects where students were able to express their opinions and show understanding was precious.

EID Facilitator