

Fact Sheet

Lifelong Learning



Islington libraries have lots of information for adults who wish to return to learning, whether to gain a qualification or to enjoy learning for leisure.

This fact sheet has been produced by

Islington Central Reference Library
2 Fieldway Crescent, London N5 1PF
E centralref.library@islington.gov.uk
T 020 7527 6931
F 020 7527 6939
W www.islington.gov.uk/libraries

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Islington Libraries

Course brochures and prospectuses

All branches should have a copy of the latest Floodlight or Hotcourses. These list part-time and full-time courses throughout London.

The Central Reference Library

The library has an education section that includes copies of prospectuses for UK universities and further education colleges. Information on funding is available through a range of reference books identifying companies, charities and organizations offering grants to individuals. 'Funderfinder' is an online database of charities and trusts that individuals and groups can access to find funding to support their studies. It can be accessed in the libraries or from a home or work computer and an Islington Libraries membership card

Computer Access

All libraries in Islington have computers for library members' use free of charge. These can be used to access the Internet and for word processing with printing facilities.

First Steps Learning Centre

T: 020 7527 7002

E: firststeps@isonline.org

Located at the Holloway Road entrance of Islington Central Library and part of the library service, First Steps offers a free service for Islington residents aged 19 or over. It provides a range of learning opportunities in a variety of different subjects such as computing, literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages and personal development.

General Information

Department for Education

W: www.education.gov.uk

Responsible for education and children's services.

Department for Innovation, Business and Skills

[http://www.bis.gov.uk/](http://www.bis.gov.uk)

UK gov dept with responsibility for further, higher and adult education as well as business.

Directgov: Adult Learning and Skills

W: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/index.htm>

Very useful site with masses of authoritative information, including course and career advice, training and apprenticeships and financial help.

Edubase

W: www.edubase.co.uk

Searchable database of educational establishments from nurseries through to colleges.

Guardian – Education

W: <http://education.guardian.gov.uk>

Comprehensive website with masses of information including current education news and course and job information.

Lifelong Learning

W: <http://www.lifelonglearning.co.uk>

Useful site that acts as a portal, with links to many topics of interest including Financing Learning, Qualifications, Online Learning and Older Learners.

Next Step

W: <https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

T: 0800 100 900

Part of the Skills Funding Agency, Next Step is a free service for adults who want advice about learning and work. You can phone the Freephone number to chat to an advisor or book an appointment for face to face advice.

Skills Funding Agency

W: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/>

This replaces the Learning and Skills Council. An agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, it funds and regulates adult further education and skills training in England. Responsible for providing information to help learners improve their skills.

Adult and Community Education

BBC Learning Zone

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/>

Transmits educational programmes overnight on BBC2. Range covers primary school to degree level subjects.

Floodlight

W: www.floodlight.co.uk

Official guide to adult education courses in all the London boroughs. Includes full-time, part-time and evening courses.

Hotcourses

W: www.hotcourses.com

Gives information on courses, schools, colleges, financial awards. Includes distance and online courses.

Islington Adult and Community Learning Service

T: 020 7527 5782

E: acl@islington.gov.uk

W: http://www.islington.gov.uk/Education/Adult_and_Community_Learning

Gives information about courses in neighbourhood learning centres across the borough. Courses include ESOL, everyday English and Maths and IT.

Learn Direct

<http://www.learndirect.co.uk/>

Provider of online courses. Flexible provision, with learners able to study at local centres, home or work provided there is internet access.

NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education)

W: www.niace.org.uk

NIACE is a charitable organization that 'aims to encourage all adults to engage in learning of all kinds'. Its chief campaigns are Adult Learners Week and Sign Up Now, which both encourage and celebrate involvement in adult learning.

Funding

For information on sources of funding available in the Central Reference library, see p1.

Adult Learning Grant (ALG)

T: 0845 600 7979

W: <http://alg.ypla.gov.uk/>

This pays up to £30 a week for an adult taking a full-time course and can help with travel, study materials and other costs of studying. It is paid on an income-assessed basis.

Directgov

W: <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

Gives details of all funds available to help with living and learning costs at every stage of education.

Discretionary Support Funds

W: <http://lsf.ypla.gov.uk/>

Available in school sixth forms and colleges to help with learning costs. They are prioritised for those who face financial hardship.

Fifty Plus In-Work Training Grant

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/FinancialHelpForAdultLearners/DG_178370

If starting work at 50 or over, you may be able to get help with work-related training costs. Full details on the web site.

Learn Direct

<http://www.learndirect.co.uk/>

The Funding Checker is a quick way to find out if you may be able to obtain funding. Or call the free and impartial helpline on 0800 100 900 for advice.

Professional and Career Development Loans

T: 0800 585 505

W: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/cdl>

These are bank loans that help pay for learning that enhances job skills or career prospects. It is interest free for the period spent in learning. Visit the website for full details of how to apply.

Online, Flexible and Distance Learning

BBC-Webwise

W: www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/learn

Online course which teaches beginners how to use the internet.

Learndirect

T: 0800 101 901

W: <http://www.learndirect.co.uk>

Delivers post-16 learning through a network of centres providing access to a range of e learning opportunities.

National Extension College

T: Freephone 0800 389 2839

W: <http://www.nec.ac.uk><http://www.nec.ac.uk/index-lsn.html>

Provides distance learning courses, with over 150 home study courses.

Open College of the Arts

T: 0800 731 2116 (Freephone)

E: enquiries@oca-uk.com

W: <http://www.oca-uk.com/courses>

Educational charity established in 1987 to widen participation in adult education. Offers a range of course (eg. Landscape gardening, fine art, photography, textiles) that can be followed at home. Courses accredited by Bucks University.

Open College Network London

T: 020 7278 5511

F: 020 7833 8289

W: <http://www.ocnlr.org.uk>

Awarding body which provides quality assured flexible learning programmes for adult learners throughout London.

The Open University

W: www.open.ac.uk

The Open University provides high-quality university education through supported open learning courses.

University of the Third Age (U3A)

W: <http://www.u3a.org.uk/>

U3As are self-help, self-managed life long learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work. They provide opportunities to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning for pleasure.

Colleges

There are many colleges in the local area or in central London that provide a wide range of both full time and part time courses for adults. They include:

City and Islington College

Course Information Unit

The Marlborough Building

383 Holloway Road

London N7 0RN

T: 020 7700 9200

E: courseinfo@candi.ac.uk

W: www.candi.ac.uk

City Lit

Keeley Street

Covent Garden

London WC2B 4BA

T: 020 7492 2600 Enrolments: 020 7831 7831

E: infoline@citylit.ac.uk

W: <http://www.citylit.ac.uk/>

Mary Ward Centre

42 Queen Square

London WC1N 3AQ

T: 020 7269 6000

E: mwenquiries@marywardcentre.ac.uk

W: www.marywardcentre.ac.uk

Morley College

61 Westminster Bridge Road

London SE1 7HT

T: 020 7928 8501

E: enquiries@morleycollege.ac.uk

W: <http://www.morleycollege.ac.uk/>

Every attempt has been made to ensure the information included is accurate. We cannot accept responsibility if an organisation no longer exists or if information has changed.

Islington Library & Heritage Services

Archway Library

T: 020 7527 7820

Hamlyn House, Highgate Hill N19 5PH

E: archway.library@islington.gov.uk

Central Library

T: 020 7527 6900

2 Fieldway Crescent N5 1PF

E: centrallending.library@islington.gov.uk

Finsbury Library

T: 020 7527 7960

245 St John Street EC1V 4NB

E: finsbury.library@islington.gov.uk

John Barnes Library

T: 020 7527 7900

275 Camden Road N7 0JN

E: johnbarnes.library@islington.gov.uk

Lewis Carroll Library

T: 020 7527 7936

166 Copenhagen Street N1 0ST

E: lewiscarroll.library@islington.gov.uk

Mildmay Library

T: 020 7527 7880

21-23 Mildmay Park N1 4NA

E: mildmay.library@islington.gov.uk

N4 Library

T: 020 7527 7800

26 Blackstock Road N4 2DW

E: n4.library@islington.gov.uk

North Library

T: 020 7527 7840

Manor Gardens N7 6JX

E: north.library@islington.gov.uk

South Library

T: 020 7527 7860

115-117 Essex Road N1 2SL

E: south.library@islington.gov.uk

West Library

T: 020 7527 7920

Bridgeman Road N1 1BD

E : west.library@islington.gov.uk