EP Riyadh

NCUK pathways at English Path Riyadh

International Foundation Year from 5 September 2027, with Pre-Sessional English

Modular deck | v1 | October 2026

English Path Riyadh | NCUK Study Centre

NCUK in one page

NCUK (Northern Consortium UK) is a UK non-profit pathway provider. Students study its qualifications at a local Study Centre, then move on to a partner university abroad.

English Path Riyadh

Your local Study Centre

- Teaches the NCUK programme in Riyadh
- Runs enquiries, testing, admissions and student support
- Works with schools and agent partners to recruit students

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NCUK

The UK body behind the qualification

- Sets the curriculum and assessment
- Awards the qualification
- Supports university applications and gives the entry guarantee*

›

Partner universities

80+ in the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and more

- Helped design the programmes
- Accept successful students into degree year one
- Set their own entry criteria by course

*Guaranteed entry: students who successfully complete the NCUK programme and apply through NCUK are guaranteed entry to an NCUK partner university. Each university sets its own entry criteria by course. Terms: ncuk.ac.uk/guarantee.

NCUK at a glance

50,000+

students guided to university

80+

partner universities in the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and more

40+

countries, through Study Centres in 150+ locations

120+

nationalities studying each year

Who is behind it

Founded in 1987 by a group of UK universities as the Northern Consortium, and now a registered charity. Its trading subsidiary, NCUK Ltd, delivers the programmes and funds the charity. Headquartered in Manchester.

Source: ncuk.ac.uk (who we are; heritage and charity). Figures are NCUK-reported.

Why this foundation year

A 32-week pre-university year in Riyadh from 5 September 2027, in a Business or Computing stream, for students aged 17+. Taught by English Path Riyadh, an approved NCUK Study Centre, with guaranteed* entry to one of 80+ NCUK partner universities.

1 A recognised qualification

Designed by UK universities and benchmarked by Ecctis, the UK agency for international qualifications, as comparable to GCE A Level. Awarded by NCUK.

2 A way in for more students

Thanawiyya at 60% in all subjects, plus American, British, IB, Indian and Pakistani curricula. A credible route for students who miss direct entry.

3 English built in

Students start from their current level. Those below Password 5.0 begin with Pre-Sessional English in Riyadh, from Password 3.5.

4 Choose your university as you go

One application with up to three university choices, and a year to decide. NCUK's application team supports students whose grades fall short of a first choice.

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How the pathway works

1

Password English Language Test

SAR 150, credited against tuition on enrolment. It shows each student's current English level.

2

English preparation, if needed

Below Password 5.0: Pre-Sessional English (PSE) in Riyadh. PSE 300 from 3.5 (24 weeks), PSE 200 from 4.0 (16 weeks), PSE 100 from 4.5 (8 weeks). Exit test before step 3.

3

Foundation Year

From 5 September 2027. 32 weeks in Riyadh, Business or Computing stream.

4

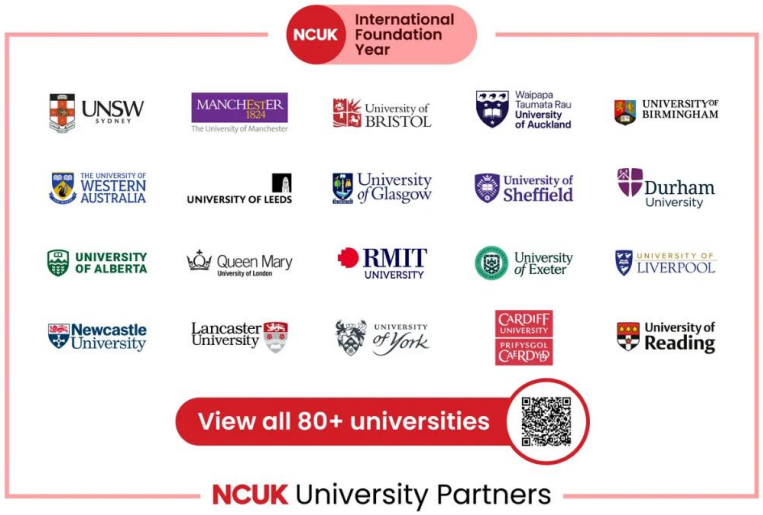
University

From September 2028. Guaranteed* entry to one of 80+ NCUK partners, 6,000+ degree courses.

Password English Language Test: the English test NCUK accepts. Level 5.0 is needed to start the Foundation Year; students already at 5.0 go straight to step 3.
Below Password 3.5: students start with General English, quoted after the test.

*Guaranteed entry: students who successfully complete the NCUK programme and apply through NCUK are guaranteed entry to an NCUK partner university, not to a named university or course. Each university sets its own entry criteria by course. Terms: ncuk.ac.uk/guarantee. Dates and cohort start dates are planned.

Where this can take your students



A selection of NCUK partner universities. Image courtesy of NCUK.

10 partners in the QS World Top 100

and more than 20 in the Top 200

UK Manchester =40, Bristol 57, Birmingham =68, Leeds =77, Sheffield =82, Durham 85

Australia UNSW Sydney 19, Western Australia =77

Canada Alberta 96

New Zealand Auckland 67

Recognised in the Kingdom

The 10 universities named here appear as approved on the Saudi Ministry of Education portal (checked 1 Oct 2026); Durham for selected specialisations. Not every NCUK partner is listed, so check the university and course.

QS World University Rankings 2027 positions, as reported by NCUK (18 June 2026); "=" is a tied position. A selection of 80+ partners. Ministry status from the Ministry of Education university portal, checked 1 October 2026. Each university sets its own entry criteria by course.

Entry requirements by curriculum

Saudi national section

Thanawiyya, 60% or more in all subjects

American section

US High School Diploma, final GPA 2.0 or more

British programme

IGCSE or GCSE: 4 modules at grade 4 or above. A Level: 1 grade E

Also needed: age 17 or over when the year starts, and English at Password 5.0, IELTS 5.0 (no skill below 4.5), PTE Academic 41 or GCSE/IGCSE English grade 4. Students below that start with an English preparation course.

Other curricula

IB Diploma: minimum 22 points.

IB Middle Years Programme: 34 points or more, with grade 5 or above in Maths and English (progression may be limited to a small number of universities).

India: Year 10, 70%. Year 11, 65% average. Standard 12, 40% average (limited progression options between 40% and 50%).

Pakistan: Intermediate or Higher Secondary Certificate, 50% or more average (50% or more in Maths and English, if studied).

Other curricula: see NCUK's entry requirements.

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Indicative investment by route

Foundation Year

SAR 58,000

32 weeks, in Riyadh, from 5 September 2027. Business or Computing stream. Fee includes VAT; textbooks are extra.

Route	Password score	English fee	Total
Foundation Year only	5.0 or above	-	SAR 58,000
PSE 100 (8 weeks)	4.5	SAR 9,750	SAR 67,750
PSE 200 (16 weeks)	4.0	SAR 19,000	SAR 77,000
PSE 300 (24 weeks)	3.5	SAR 28,500	SAR 86,500
Below 3.5	General English first	Quoted after the test	-

Pre-Sessional English (PSE) brings a student up to Password 5.0 before the Foundation Year starts. The Password English Language Test is SAR 150, credited against tuition on enrolment.

Indicative fees. Abroad, accommodation, living costs and visa are additional. Payment options are available on request.

How to apply and key dates

1

Apply now

Online, or message us on WhatsApp

2

Password Test

Shows each student's English level

3

Counselling

Agree the route: Foundation Year, or English first

4

Application

One application, documents and up to three university choices

5

Offer

Receive the offer and secure the place with a deposit

6

Enrol

Start English courses or the Foundation Year

Key dates

29 Nov 2026

English course PSE 300 starts

31 Jan 2027

PSE 200 starts

11 Apr 2027

PSE 100 starts

10 Jun 2027

English courses finish

5 Sept 2027

Foundation Year starts

Sept 2028

University starts

Apply early: the first English course starts on 29 November 2026. English Path runs testing, offers and admission.

Dates are planned; confirm at application.

EP Riyadh

High School Counsellors

For high school counsellors and school leadership

- Where schools and families get stuck
- Why study it in the Kingdom
- Talking with families, counsellor Q&A
- How we work with your school

Where schools and families get stuck



Schools

Counsellors and leadership

The job Get students to a good university and show parents strong outcomes.

The pain

- Students miss direct entry on grades or English, with no credible fallback
- Little time to vet options

They want A credible route to recommend, and a stronger destinations story



Parents

Saudi and expat

The job A good university for my child, at a cost I can control, with my child safe.

The pain

- Is the route credible and recognised?
- Total cost, including living abroad
- A 17-year-old far from home

They want Confidence in the route, a clear total cost, and a year at home first



Students

Saudi and expat

The job Get into a good university abroad and prove my English.

The pain

- Saudi: is my Thanawiyya enough? IELTS 5.0 before I can even apply
- Expat: right qualifications, but grades or subjects fall short of direct entry

They want A clear way in, English built in, and time to build study skills first

Do you see these gaps in your families? Which matters most?

Why study it in the Kingdom

Foundation year, tuition only

SAR 58,000

NCUK Foundation Year, Riyadh (includes VAT)

SAR 81,000 - 117,000*

UK foundation programmes, tuition only

Abroad, accommodation, living costs and visa are additional.

1

One more year at home

Students aged 17 stay with their families and in a familiar culture while they build study skills and English.

2

The same route to university

The same NCUK programme and guaranteed** progression to partner universities, then abroad for the degree.

3

Time to choose well

Use the year to research courses and universities before committing, with support from our team.

*Published 2026/27 UK foundation tuition fees of about GBP 16,000 - 23,000, converted at GBP 1 = SAR 5.00. Indicative and not like-for-like. English Path fee includes VAT; textbooks are extra. **Guaranteed entry to an NCUK partner university when NCUK conditions are met; each university sets its own criteria by course.

Talking with families about a foundation year

1 Frame it as a planned route

Many students reach a UK, Australian, Canadian or New Zealand degree through a foundation year. The year builds study skills and English before the degree.

2 Start with the facts

Look at the student's curriculum and grades, and take the Password Test to know their English level. The right route follows from there.

3 Be clear on the numbers

Foundation Year SAR 58,000 (includes VAT). Students who need English add a Pre-Sessional English course. Textbooks are extra, and costs abroad come later.

4 Keep the family in control

The school informs and advises. English Path runs testing, application and admission, and families decide.

Counsellor questions, answered

Is it the same as A Levels?

It is benchmarked as comparable to GCE A Level. We avoid the word "equivalent".

Do students need IELTS?

Students start from their current English level via the Password English Language Test. Some universities may ask for their own English evidence at application; we advise.

Is a named university guaranteed?

No. Guaranteed entry is to an NCUK partner university when conditions are met. Each university sets its own criteria by course.

Can students study engineering or sciences?

Riyadh offers Business and Computing streams only.

What if a student does not reach Password 5.0?

We confirm the options with the family at the exit test. We do not promise every student reaches 5.0.

Does Ministry sponsorship or a scholarship apply?

Please speak with us about the specific sponsorship or scholarship and we can confirm.

How we work with your school



What we can offer

- Information sessions for students and parents, with your agreement
- A counsellor toolkit: entry requirements by curriculum, and routes for students who miss direct entry
- Events for your university guidance team
- A named English Path contact for your school



How we work

- A simple, non-commercial arrangement, in writing and approved by school leadership
- No payments, referral fees or incentives to counsellors or school staff
- No direct student marketing without the school's agreement
- We recommend by fit, and say so when another route suits a student better

Next step: a follow-up conversation with your school leadership and university guidance team.

EP Riyadh

Recruitment Partners

For agent partner training

- Who does what, and which students fit
- How an application moves, and what students pay
- Say it accurately, and getting started
- Agent terms and commission: speak with Shadi

Working together: who does what

Agent partner

You

- Attract and counsel students, and check them against the entry requirements
- Submit complete applications with the right documents to English Path
- Keep the student and family informed at each step

English Path Riyadh

The Study Centre

- Run the Password Test, validate applications and submit them to NCUK
- Issue offers, take payments and support students through enrolment
- Teach the programme and support students in Riyadh

NCUK

The UK awarding body

- Sets the curriculum and assessment, and awards the qualification
- Supports university applications
- Gives the entry guarantee* to partner universities

*Guaranteed entry: students who successfully complete the NCUK programme and apply through NCUK are guaranteed entry to an NCUK partner university, not to a named university or course. Each university sets its own entry criteria by course. Terms: ncuk.ac.uk/guarantee.

Which students fit

Students who fit

- Aged 17 or over when the year starts
- Saudi Thanawiyya at 60% or more in all subjects, or an American, British, IB, Indian or Pakistani curriculum meeting the entry table
- Want a Business or Computing degree in the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand or beyond
- Miss direct entry on grades or English, or want a year at home first

Check before you promise

- Students who want engineering, medicine or the sciences: Riyadh offers Business and Computing only
- Students below the academic entry for their curriculum
- Students below Password 3.5: they start with General English first, quoted after the test
- A named university or course: each sets its own entry criteria

Not sure? Ask English Path to check a student's profile before you promise a route.

How an application moves



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Submitted to EP	**Validated**	**Submitted to NCUK**	**Offer issued**	**Offer accepted**	**Enrolled**	**Retained**
You send a complete application	English Path checks it	Sent to NCUK	The student receives an offer	Deposit paid, place secured	First payment made, day 1 attended	Student passes the census date

Other outcomes

On hold (for example, translation or notarisation pending), Rejected, Offer declined, Deferred, Withdrawn.

Good to know

One application per programme. The census date is four weeks after the course start date. Your account manager can tell you where each student is.

What students pay, and student incentives

Payment options

- Full payment before the course starts (expected for Pre-Sessional English), or
- Instalments: SAR 5,000 deposit, then 60% of the balance at registration and 40% before semester 2
- Foundation Year SAR 58,000 includes VAT; textbooks are paid by the student

Student incentives

- Early bird discount of SAR 2,650: deposit paid by 1 June 2027
- Discount of SAR 1,060 for self-funded students who pay the full tuition fee
- The early bird and full-payment discounts can be combined (SAR 3,710 in total)
- No incentives on Pre-Sessional English

For anything else, including awards and agent terms, speak with Shadi.

Say it accurately

Say	Avoid
Benchmarked as comparable to GCE A Level	"Equivalent to A Levels"
Guaranteed entry to an NCUK partner university when you complete the programme and apply through NCUK	A guaranteed place at a named university or course
Students start from their current English level via the Password Test; some universities may ask for their own English evidence	"No IELTS needed", without the qualification
Business and Computing streams in Riyadh	Promising engineering, medicine or science streams
Whilst students can apply to NCUK partner universities, we highly recommend agents review the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education portal to confirm the subject area, study level and institution the applicant is interested in are approved	"All NCUK partners are approved"
Published fees and incentives only	Promising discounts, scholarships or sponsorship

Getting started as an agent partner

1

Join the open day

Agent open day on 12 November 2026 at English Path Riyadh.

2

Agree terms

Sign the NCUK pathway agent agreement with English Path.

3

Get equipped

Training on the programme, entry requirements and application steps, plus marketing materials.

4

Start submitting

Counsel students and submit complete applications to English Path.

Agent terms, commission and payment timing

Please speak with Shadi. He will take you through the terms and the agreement.

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Reference

If required

- What students study
- How students are assessed
- Grading and English

What students study

The stream a student chooses shapes the degrees they can apply to. Riyadh offers Business and Computing streams only.

Business stream	Credits
English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Academic reading, writing, speaking and listening, to about CEFR B2.	40
Business Studies How businesses work: marketing, finance, operations, people.	25
Economics How markets work: supply and demand, inflation, growth, trade.	25
Global Studies 21st-century global issues, researched from several perspectives.	25

Computing stream	Credits
English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Academic reading, writing, speaking and listening, to about CEFR B2.	40
Computer Science Computational thinking, Python, networking, security and ethics.	25
Technical Maths Algebra, trigonometry, calculus, probability and statistics.	25
Business Studies How businesses work: marketing, finance, operations, people.	25

Plus Skills for Success, an online module (5 credits). 115 credits across the four modules, about 540 guided hours.

Source: NCUK 2026-27 module specifications and module overview. Module list and timetable to be confirmed.

How students are assessed

Module	Assessment (share of module mark)
English for Academic Purposes (EAP)	25% listening into speaking (10 min) | 25% reading into writing (1,000-1,200 words) | 50% exam (four skills)
Business Studies	30% group start-up project | 30% reflective journal | 40% exam (2 h 40)
Economics	40% case report (1,350-1,650 words) | 60% exam (2 h 30)
Global Studies	50% semester 1 test (2 h) | 30% security essay (1,800 words) | 20% justice and inequality essay (1,600 words)
Computer Science	30% Python portfolio | 30% coursework report (2,000 words) | 40% exam (2 h 30)
Technical Maths	50% semester 1 test | 50% final exam

Skills for Success (online) is separate. Source: NCUK 2026-27 module specifications. Assessment timings assume NCUK's standard year; the Riyadh timetable is to be confirmed.

Grading and English

Subject modules

Grade	Mark	NCUK points
A*	80% or more	56
A	70-79%	48
B	60-69%	40
C	50-59%	32
D	40-49%	24
E	35-39%	16

English (EAP) and IELTS equivalent

Grade	Mark	IELTS equivalent
A*	90% or more	7.5
A	80-89%	7.0
B	70-79%	6.5
C	60-69%	6.0
D	50-59%	5.5
E	40-49%	5.0

Each university sets its own progression criteria at course level. Source: NCUK International Foundation Year Programme Overview (June 2026). Partner universities generally accept NCUK's English modules as proof of English; each university sets its own rules.