



Specialist Language Courses

## **Vocational ESOL courses**

South West ESOL Conference  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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Co-director TERM

# Who are you?

- ✓ Founded SLC as online language education specialist
- ✓ Delivering vocational ESOL courses since 2018
  - ✓ Healthcare, social care, accountancy, safety, hospitality
  - ✓ Employability skills and communication
  - ✓ OET & IELTS test prep
  - ✓ Integration – employment / housing / education rights, driving theory test prep
- ✓ Co-founded TERM 2025



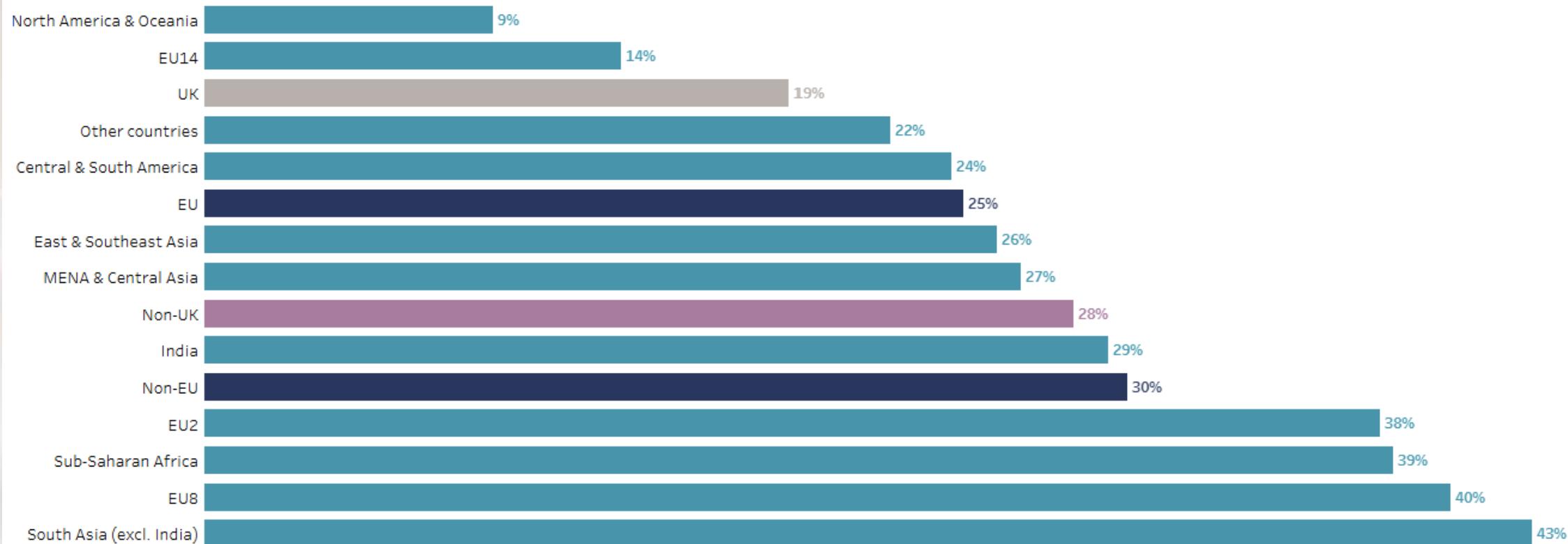
# Why vocational?

LM overview 2025 by [Migration Observatory](#)

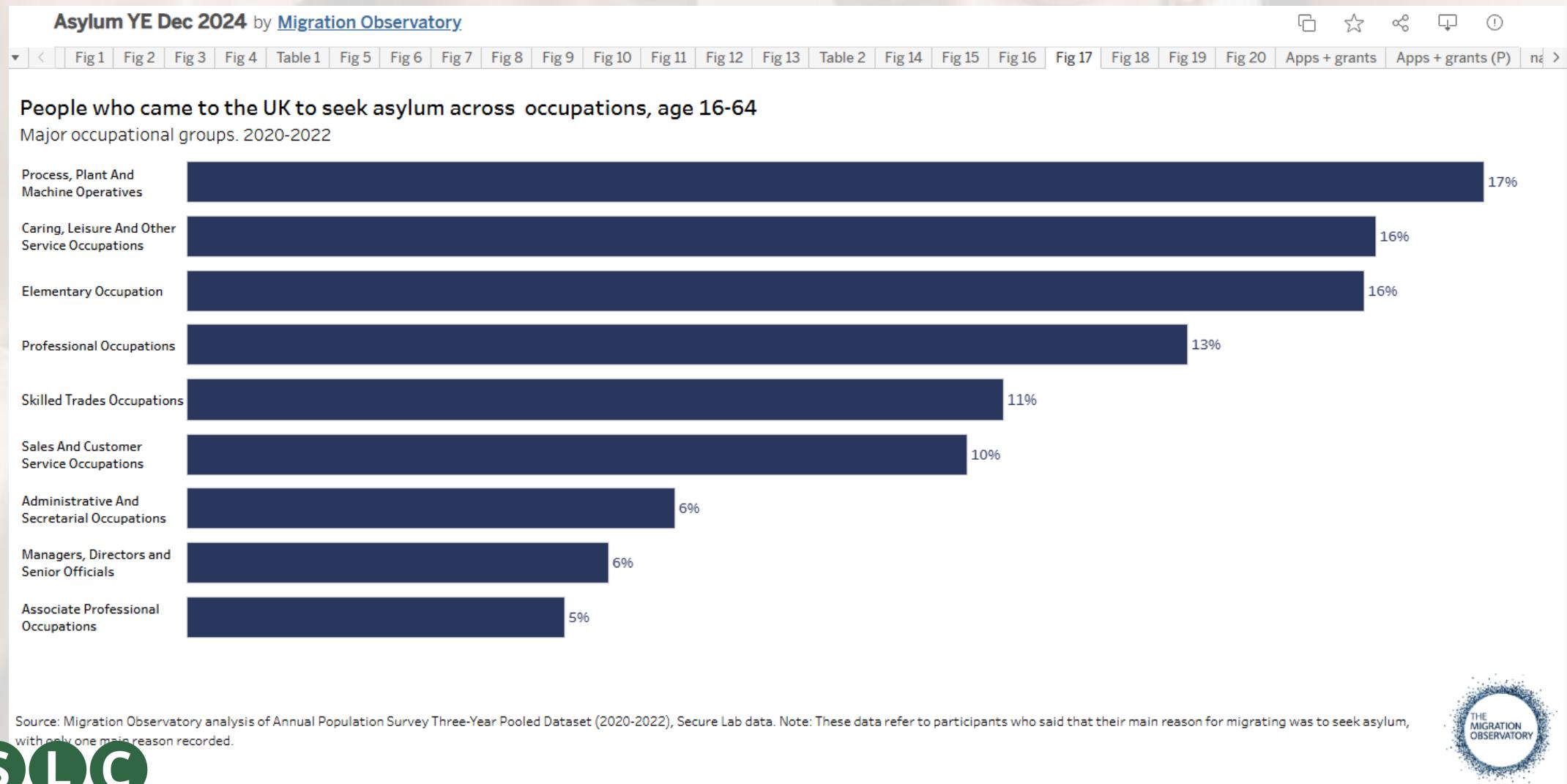


## Share of highly-educated workers in low- and medium-low skill jobs by country of birth, 2024

Estimates come with substantial uncertainty



# Why vocational?



# Why vocational?



# What is vocational ESOL?

Focus on specialist, practical learning

- ✓ Professional / technical language
- ✓ Workplace communication
- ✓ High context
- ✓ High stakes
- ✓ Task based
- ✓ Entry level 1 and above



Specialist Language Courses

<https://specialistlanguagecourses.com/esol/>

# Example sector – healthcare

## Professions

- Doctors / Nurses / Pharmacists / Dentists / Allied health professionals / Carers / Social workers

## Vocational language

- Clinical communication, anatomy, medical terminology, practice specific language

## Language tests - OET, IELTS

## Professional tests – PLAB, Simulated surgery, Nursing OSCE

## Cultural education



# Vocational ESOL – some considerations

## Learners

Stresses of displacement and relocation – ongoing uncertainty

Trauma

Survival comes first

Study skills may be different / disrupted

Need time



# Vocational ESOL – some questions

## Teachers

Schemes of work, lesson plans etc – **where do you start?**

Where are the materials, inc needs analysis and assessment?

Teaching experience?

What about culture?



# Vocational ESOL - bridging the gap

1. Start with the end, work back from there – needs analysis
2. NA creates focus → course design, lesson plans, materials, activities, assessment
3. Generate a **trauma-informed classroom** built on safety and trust
4. Build in lots of **small wins** – scaffold learning, short- and long-term goals
5. Create an **ecosystem** to mitigate absence, provide ongoing support



# Get in touch

Get in touch to talk about how we can support your work:

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- <https://specialistlanguagecourses.com/esol/>



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