



Specialist Language Courses

Vocational ESOL courses

South West ESOL Conference
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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



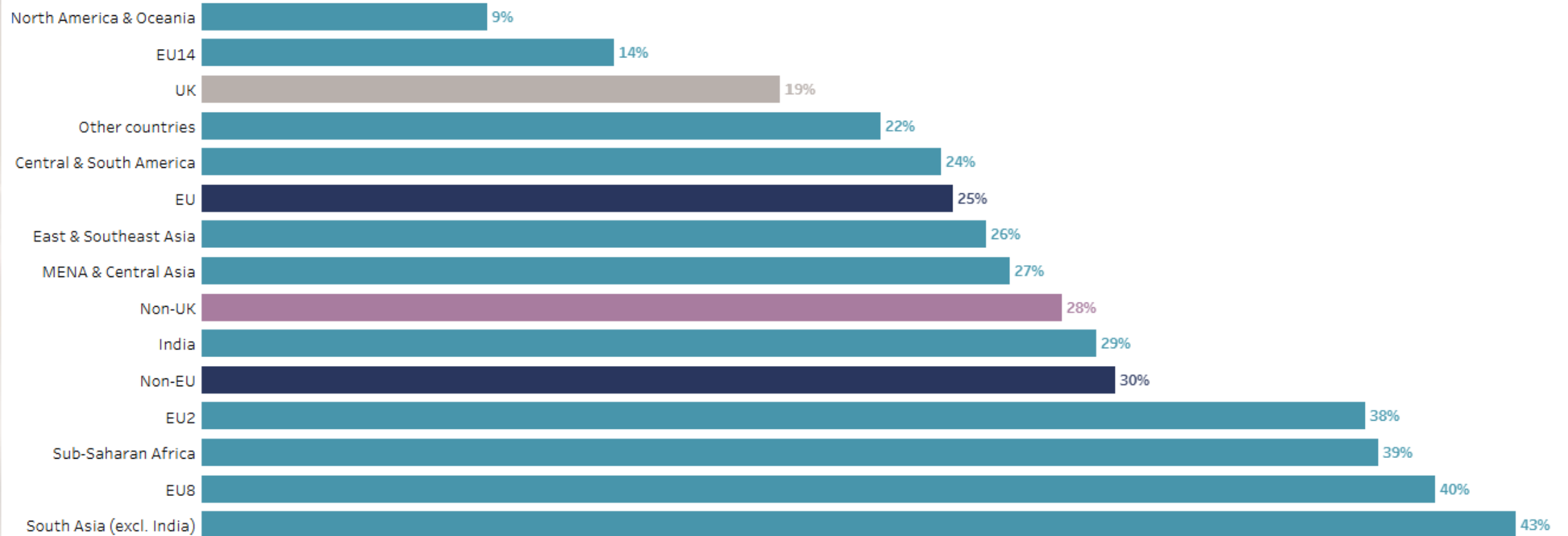
Why vocational?

LM overview 2025 by [Migration Observatory](#)

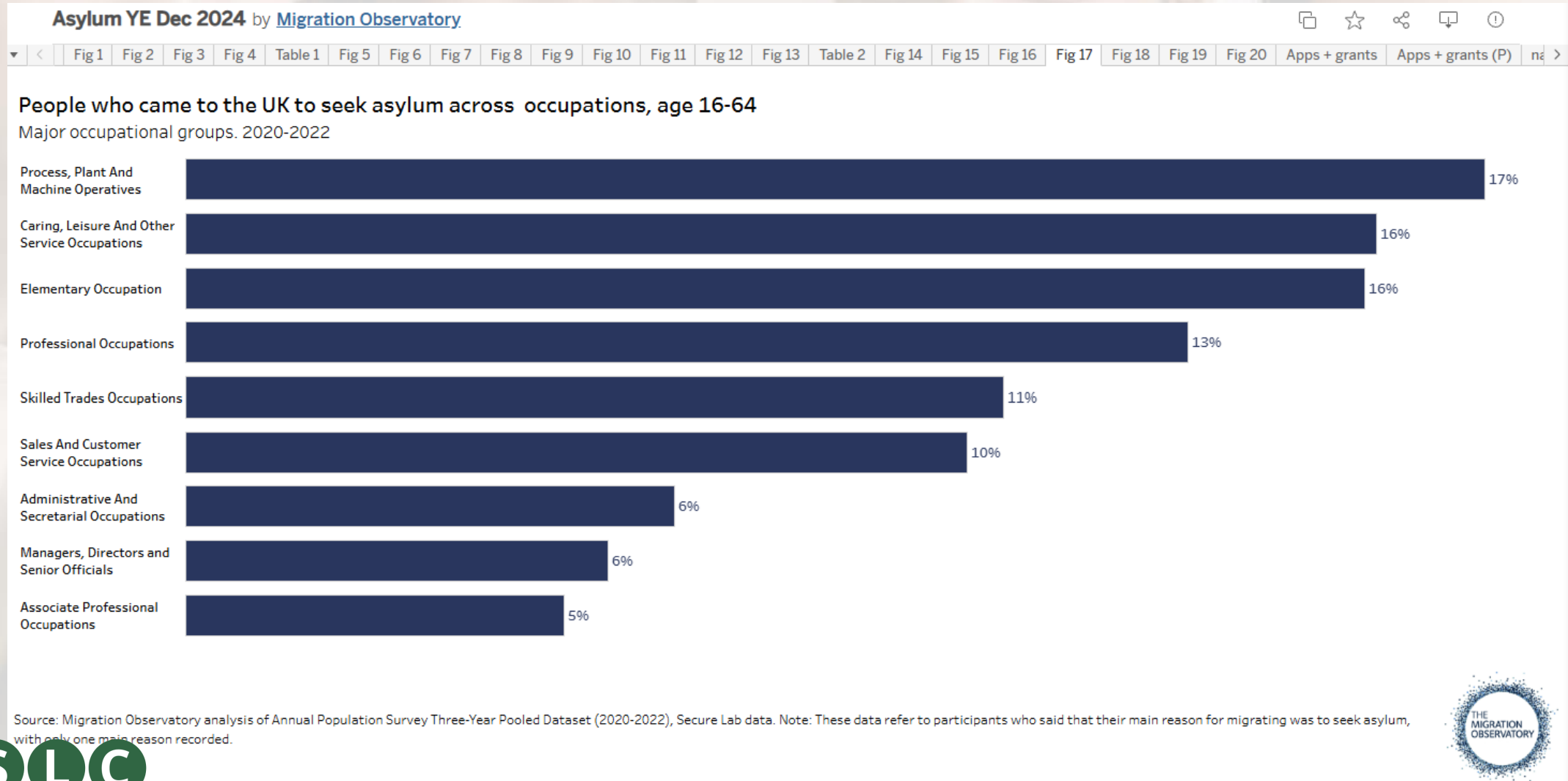


Share of highly-educated workers in low- and medium-low skill jobs by country of birth, 2024

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



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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