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# Around Israel

## Education Ministry Launches Program for English Teachers

The Education Ministry recently approved a tuition-free course to train English teachers, with the goal of improving the level of English among the general population.

Starting this upcoming school year, all Israeli colleges are invited to apply for part of the NIS 12 million budget and offer this free government-run course to native English speakers who are interested in learning how to teach English to local children.

Headed by the ministry's teacher-training division, the program is designed to train qualified teachers to teach English from elementary school level to junior high school.

To enroll, the applicant must have a bachelor's degree that is recognized by the Education Ministry and pass an interview conducted by the college director in English.

The two-year course runs one and a half days a week. One full day is dedicated to learning how to teach English, while the half day is spent gaining practical experience at a local elementary or junior high school.

One of the schools hoping to move forward with this new program is the Chemdat Hadarom College in Netivot.

Professor Shaul Krakover, president of the college, said that the program places special emphasis on making future English teachers aware of the "Israeli temperament."

"This is a project on a national scale; the Education Ministry recognizes the problem of the poor level of English, so they are investing NIS 12 million to fix it," Krakover added. "I believe that the minister of education should be praised for trying to improve English speaking and proficiency."