Northern Ireland
Tourist Guide Association

BELFAST GREEN BADGE

Tourist Guide Course

2026/27

COURSE INFORMATION

INSTITUTE OF TOURIST GUIDING

Accredited by:
ITG - The Institute of Tourist Guiding

COURSE INFORMATION FOR BELFAST GREEN BADGE 2026/2027

OBJECTIVES

- To prepare students to enter the tourism industry as qualified guides for their city
- Registered tourist guides are qualified by examinations set and administered by the Institute of Tourist Guiding (ITG)
- Students who are successful in these examinations will be awarded the Green Badge for Belfast City and will be qualified to offer guided walks and guided site tours to groups and individuals within the area of qualification

ABOUT THE COURSE PROVIDER

- The Northern Ireland Tourist Guide Association **NITGA** is a membership organisation and a training provider of guide training courses in Northern Ireland
- NITGA has been running a number of very successful courses since 2016
  - NI BLUE BADGE Course in 2016/17
  - CLIFTON HOUSE WHITE BAGDE Course in 2017/18
  - TRAIN THE TRAINERS Course in February 2020
  - BELFAST GREEN BADGE Course 2020-22
  - CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK WHITE BAGDE Course in January-March 2024

  ➡ www.nitga.co.uk
- The Course Director is Petra Herrmann, ITG and NITGA Board Director
- Petra is a NI Blue Badge Tourist Guide who has been working as a self employed basis on a wide range of tours since first qualifying in 2001. She is also guide co-ordinator and quayside dispatcher for various cruise ship companies. She has been guiding on various sites throughout NI for the National Trust, the Old Bushmills Distillery, and for DAERA (the Department of Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs).
- The Tutors on the course are working Blue Badge Guides
- The Tutors on the course are members of NITGA and ITG
- The Tutors on the course have undergone training on the ITG 'Train the Trainers' Programme and have undertaken ITG Communication Seminars
- Lecturers are working guides or specialists in their subject area
- The Course will be managed by the Course Director who reports to the NITGA Board and to the ITG

ABOUT THE COURSE ACCREDITOR

- The Institute of Tourist Guiding (ITG) is a professional membership organisation which is committed to developing, maintaining and promoting professional standards in tourist guiding
- ITG is the first port of call in the UK for those wishing to train as tourist guides (www.itg.org.uk)

COURSE CONTENT

- The Course is one of the Modules making up the Northarn Ireland Blue Badge Course which is currently running, but the Belfast Green Badge is a stand alone qualification. We welcome applications from those who wish to enrol for Belfast Green Badge only.
- The course is designed to be part-time, with lectures and practical training sessions outside normal office hours
- Registered tourist guides are qualified by examinations set and administered by ITG
- During the course students will study the following:
    - Core knowledge - extensive background knowledge of Belfast
    - Students will be expected to acquire an in-depth knowledge of the city
    - Guiding techniques - communication and presentation skills for guiding on a site and on a walking tour
    - Subjects covered include: geography, geology, architecture, infrastructure, history, industry, government, education, literature, visual and performing arts, sport, tourism, practical guiding, tour planning and problem solving

- Practical Training will take place on select Saturdays from October - April
- Classroom Sessions will take place on select Tuesday Evenings from October - April.

A student information pack and full syllabus will be provided at the start of the course.

There will be a minimum of 90 contact hours, at least 40 of which will be practical sessions.

Classroom based training will also be available online, however we do recommend attending as many sessions as possible in-person. Getting together with the other candidates enhances the learning experience.

Candidates are expected to attend all training sessions.

COURSE INFORMATION FOR BELFAST GREEN BADGE 2026/2027

COURSE STRUCTURE

- **Induction Day**
  - Saturday 26th September 2026 from 13.00 to 17.30
  - Location TBC
- **Practical Guiding Training** on Saturdays
  - 1 Full Day + 5 Half Day site training sessions in the Ulster Museum in Belfast
  - 1 Full Day + 5 Half Day walking tour training in Belfast City Centre
- **Classroom Sessions and Lectures -** Tuesday evenings (18.00 - 21.00)
  - 7 three-hour evening sessions including 12 lectures
  - Classroom sessions will cover all aspects of guiding with lectures on subjects from the set syllabus
- **Communication Seminar**
  - A 2 day Communication Seminar will be held in groups
  - It will take place on 17-18th Oct, 24-25 Oct, or in week commencing 26th October

ASSESSMENT

- **Written Assignment**

  Candidates will be required to complete a 1,500 word tour planning project designing an itinerary for a group of visitors
- **2 Practical Guiding Examinations**
  - A practical examination on the selected site, the Ulster Museum (January 2027)
  - A practical examination on the selected walking route (March 2027)
- **Written Examinations** expected to be held in April 2027
  - SECTION A - **100 short questions** requiring one-word, short-phrase or short sentence answers, worth one mark each
  - SECTION B - **3 long answer questions** to be answered in note form or as bullet points, on a wide range of subjects related to the area of study. Up to 25 marks each.
- All assessments will be in English
- Final assessments are carried out by ITG
- To gain the Green Badge qualification students have to pass all the exams
- The pass mark for each examination is 60%

Candidates sucessfully completing this Module will be awarded the Belfast Green Badge

PRIVATE HOME STUDY

- Students should expect to spend several hours each week on private research and learning of material
- The Institute of Tourist Guiding recommend/expect at least 100-150 hours of personal study throughout each module
- The holiday breaks during the modules are intended as study leave
- The breaks between the modules are during the main tourist season giving candidates an opportunity to guide and "Earn as you Learn"
- As a working Green Badge guide you will need to have an up-to-date computer and reasonable computer skills
- Computer skills will also be required during the course as all information will be sent out by email and will be stored on an online database for you to access, and coursework will have to be submitted electronically

GUIDING IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN THE MOTHER TONGUE

After qualification as a Green Badge Guide, students wishing to guide in a language other than their own mother tongue are encouraged to take language examinations accepted by the Institute.

These examinations are at present conducted by LTI, Language Testing International; candidates have to arrange exams themselves, a separate fee is payable.

NITGA used to offer local language examinations, however the cost is only marginally lower, and these exams will only allow the candidate to advertise the examined languages on NITGA publications, not on those of the Institute or the British Guild of Tourist Guides.

There is no benefit in holding those tests locally now. We recommend to take the LTI test, it is quite simple to do. Tests can be taken at any time of the year when it suits the candidate and are easy to set up. More info on the LTI test can be found here.

FEES

The following fees will have to be paid by the candidates:

- NITGA Course Fee per candidate is £1650.
- On top of this there are ITG registration and examination fees as detailed in the table below (including payment schedule)

Fee	£	payable to	payment date
ITG Registration Fee	135.00	**NITGA**	upon acceptance on the course (Sept 2026)
NITGA Couse Fee 1st Instalment	825.00	**NITGA**	upon acceptance on the course (Sept 2026)
NITGA Couse Fee 2nd Instalment	825.00	**NITGA**	2 months later (Nov 2026)
ITG Exam Fees:			
Assignment	91.00	**ITG**	November 2026
Practical - Museum	178.00	**ITG**	November 2026
Practical - Walking Tour	178.00	**ITG**	January 2027
Written Exam	191.00	**ITG**	January 2027

- The fees do not include personal travel throughout the course
- They also do not include tea, coffee, scones, lunches, etc on familiarisation visits and practical training days
- No refunds will be given if a student withdraws from the course or any part of it, or for non-use of services provided
- Successful candidates will become members of NITGA and will be issued with a NITGA Student Guide photo card
- They will have their name added to the Institute of Tourist Guiding's Register of Guides
- There is an **additional** language test and fee for those wishing to guide in a language other than their mother tongue
- These tests will be held in Belfast after the end of the training