

Welcome to

# Balakun

## Балакун



**Balakun is Ukrainian for “Chatterbox”, the essence of our initiative – to foster meaningful conversations and build connections**

**#jointheconversation**



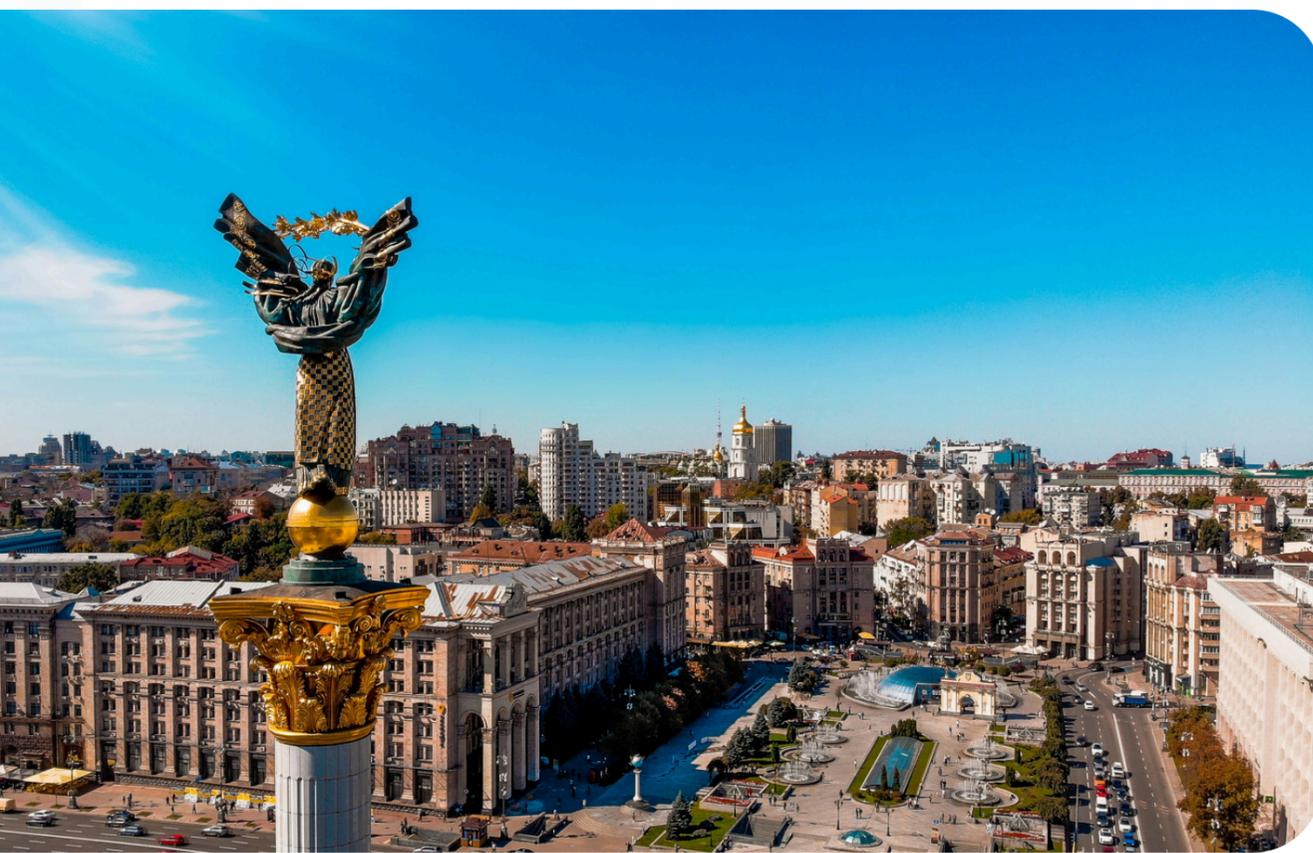


# What is Balakun?

Balakun is a bridge between passionate volunteer mentors from around the world, and Ukrainians eager to learn or practice English

Anyone who can speak English fluently can become a Balakun Mentor, as long as you can commit to at least one session per week (40-60 minutes)





# Who can join as a Student?

We are currently enrolling students of all levels who live in Ukraine now.

When you are verified we will add you to a waiting list until we find you a suitable mentor for one-on-one sessions.

We prioritize matching students who are volunteers or serving in the military.



# About Balakun

## Where is Balakun based?

The internet!

Our mentors are all over the world, and the management team are based in New Zealand, USA, Ukraine, Norway, Mexico and France.

## What is Balakun?

Balakun is a registered non-profit organization

# Why volunteer at Balakun?



We know from student and mentor feedback that the experience is rewarding for both parties.

Students become more confident speaking when they develop a connection with their mentor, who gets to make a real difference for someone in Ukraine.



# Becoming a Mentor



It's easy! Just complete the Mentor Sign Up form at [www.balakun.org](http://www.balakun.org) and a member of the team will be in touch to schedule a verification call with you.

On the call we will check your internet connection, English fluency and motivation for joining.

Verified mentors are then matched with a student, and invite to join us on Discord.



# How do I become a student?



Easy! You just need to complete the “Student Sign Up Form” at **balakun.org** and we will get in touch.

A member of our Student Matching team will reach out, get an understanding of your ability level and then we will try to match you with the perfect mentor!

We are enrolling students all over Ukraine, but we are prioritizing matching students who are volunteers or serving in the military.





# How do I start a group lesson?

If you want to start a group lesson once a week we would love to speak with you!

These can be anything from grammar, pronunciation or just speaking clubs. We will assign the number of students you are comfortable with and schedule the lessons in 10 week blocks on our Group Lesson Calendar.

At the end of the 10 weeks you have the option to start again with a new group of students.

# FAQs



## **What software do I need?**

We use Google Workspace, which means that we encourage our mentors and students to use Google Meet (don't worry, it's free!)

## **How do I contact you?**

Contact us at [info@balakun.org](mailto:info@balakun.org) for any queries relating to your application (student or mentor) progress, or if you are an existing mentor or student and want to share an idea you have had!

## **My availability has changed!**

Let us know by email and we can make accommodations, if necessary we can assign you a new student or a new mentor



# Support



# Balakun

Balakun is run by volunteers and we do not charge our students any fees, but we do have operational costs such as servers, software licenses and teaching materials.



*Buy me a coffee*

You can buy us a coffee (or two!).



# PayPal

You can donate to us directly using  
[info@balakun.org](mailto:info@balakun.org)

Even if you can't donate or volunteer, you can engage with us across our Social Media platforms and help to spread the word!



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