

Working with people from different time zones How BookaChat manages time.

Key information:

- All dates and times relating to lesson bookings are displayed in the user's local time zone based on their web browser date and time settings.
- Move your mouse cursor over any booking time to see the GMT time for the chat session.

BookaChat has a global audience and often students and tutors may be in different countries or even different continents.

This means that students and tutors may often be in different time zones.

Time zones

There are 24 time zones in the world, 1 for every hour of the day. Cities and countries are sometimes displayed with their time zone displayed and as a + or – sign and then a number representing how far away the time zone is from UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) also known as GMT (Greenwich Mean Time), so New York would be UTC -5 and Auckland, New Zealand is UTC + 12

Calculating time between two locations is done by calculating the difference between the two locations. Sounds easy? Wrong. Political and geographical practicalities can result in irregularly-shaped zones that follow political boundaries or that change their time seasonally (as with daylight saving time), as well as being subject to occasional redefinition as political conditions change.

How BookaChat calculates chat times

When a booking is made by a student the system converts the booking time from the student's time zone to GMT/UTC time. The student's time zone is determined by the date and time settings of the student's web browser.

The same booking is displayed to the tutor in their own local time zone.

For example:

A student in New York (- 5 UTC) submits a booking request for the 18th July at 7pm. A tutor in Auckland, NZ (+12 UTC) sees that a booking has been placed and it is displayed with the correct time zone adjustment being made for the tutor so it appears on BookaChat as 19th July at 11am.

Summary

If you are a tutor it is up to YOU to make sure that you are going to be on time at the right time for the lesson. Always double check the lesson date and time by converting the UTC time of the lesson into your local time zone.