IELTS takes you places
What is IELTS?

IELTS is an English test that assesses your listening, reading, writing and speaking skills.

IELTS is jointly owned by the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge Assessment English.

It helps you develop the kind of English you will need in everyday life whether you are at college, at work or talking to friends.

There are two test types:

- IELTS Academic is for higher education or professional training.
- IELTS General Training is for secondary education, migration, work or training.

The test is made up of:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Academic Reading
- General Training Reading
- Academic Writing
- General Training Writing

If you are thinking of studying, working or living in an English-speaking country, IELTS is the test for you – it is the world’s most popular English language test for higher education and global migration.
Who accepts IELTS?

Over 10,000 organisations globally accept IELTS. As the most popular test for higher education and working abroad, it gives you a huge number of options.

See the full list
For a full list of universities and organisations that will accept your IELTS score, visit takeielts.org

United Kingdom
IELTS is accepted by UK Visas and Immigration.

Australia
Over 1,000 organisations in Australia accept IELTS, including the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

United States
Over 3,400 institutions in the USA accept IELTS.

Canada
IELTS is accepted by Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and by over 350 institutions.

New Zealand
Immigration New Zealand accepts IELTS along with several other organisations.

Globally recognised
IELTS is recognised in Germany, Malaysia, Netherlands and many other countries around the globe.

“The worldwide availability of IELTS makes it an attractive option.”
London School of Economics, UK

+10,000 organisations globally accept IELTS
The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.

We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. We help young people to gain the skills, confidence and connections they are looking for to realise their potential and to participate in strong and inclusive communities. We support them to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications. Our work in arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange and nurtures creative enterprise.

Top five reasons for taking IELTS with the British Council:

1. Road to IELTS
Register to take IELTS with the British Council and get free access to our online preparation course.

2. Preparation materials
Access free practice tests and preparation materials online at takeielts.org/prepare or order a copy of the IELTS Practice book – a printed book containing sample tests for IELTS Academic and General Training.

3. Dates and locations
Choose from more than 800 test centres globally, so the date and location are convenient for you.

4. Test Report Form
Get five Test Report Forms free of charge to send to the institutions you are applying to.

5. Booking your test is easy
Book online by going to takeielts.org or by visiting a British Council test centre. Our friendly staff will help you every step of the way.

“Who are we?” The people and the officials of the British Council were very friendly and supportive throughout the session and they made sure that no candidate faces any problem during the test.”

Salman Rafique, Glasgow
If you are planning to study, work or live in the UK, you may need to take a specific kind of IELTS test to prove your English language ability.

For visa applications, the UK Home Office has an approved list of Secure English Language Tests – this includes IELTS, IELTS for UKVI and IELTS Life Skills.

To find out whether you need to take an approved test, what level you need to achieve and which test you must use, you can use the chart below and also go to the UK Visas and Immigration site at [gov.uk/check-uk-visa](http://gov.uk/check-uk-visa).

Applying for Student Route Visa (Tier 4)?
If you are applying to a university that is a Tier 4 Sponsor to study for a bachelor or postgraduate degree, you must meet the English language level set by that institution. Almost all British universities and colleges accept IELTS results.

To see the list of universities that Student Route Visa (Tier 4) applicants can apply to, visit [gov.uk/student-visa](http://gov.uk/student-visa).

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### Applying to study, work or live in the UK?

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### Which IELTS test do you need to study in the UK?

**Life**
- Visa application (only when required)
- Direct entry to an Undergraduate or Postgraduate course at HEI/Tier 4 Sponsor (Student Route Visa)
- For a family of a settled person’s visa, for indefinite leave to remain or citizenship

**Study**
- Non-higher education institution or Pre-sessional or foundation course (below degree level)

**Work**
- Professional registration

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**IELTS**
- IELTS Life Skills
- IELTS for UKVI
- IELTS Life Skills

**Non-UK**
- UK
- Non-UK

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**UK**
- Non-UK

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**IELTS for UKVI**
- Non-UK
- UK
About IELTS for UKVI and IELTS Life Skills

IELTS for UKVI
IELTS for UKVI is a government-approved English language test that can be used in support of a UK Visa and Immigration application.

As with IELTS, there are two types of IELTS for UKVI – UKVI Academic and UKVI General Training.

IELTS Life Skills
IELTS Life Skills is used for specific types of applications – a ‘family of a settled person’ visa, an ‘indefinite leave to remain’ visa and for citizenship.

It is a test of Speaking and Listening available at CEFR Levels A1, A2 and B1.

The purpose of each test
IELTS Life Skills A1
For those applying to UK Visas and Immigration for a ‘family of a settled person’ visa.

IELTS Life Skills A2
For those applying to UK Visas and Immigration for an extension to a family, spouse or partner visa.

IELTS Life Skills B1
For those applying to UK Visas and Immigration for indefinite leave to remain or citizenship.

For more information visit takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/which-ielts-test/ukvi/life-skills

IELTS Life Skills got me back to really focussing on the essential skills – Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.”

About IELTS for UKVI and IELTS Life Skills

Answering your questions about IELTS and your UK Visas and Immigration application

Q Where and when can I take my test for my UK Visas and Immigration application?
A Tests are available throughout the world, in locations specified by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). See the list of dates and locations at takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/book or ielts.org/testcentres

You must confirm at the time of registration that you wish to use your test result for a UK visa application. You must sit the test in an ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test session, as UKVI will not accept results from all IELTS tests offered at these locations.

Q How often are the IELTS for UKVI and IELTS Life Skills tests available?
A Test dates will be available within 28 days at permanent locations and quarterly at pop-up locations.

Q How is my IELTS test different if I am taking it for UK visa purposes?
A Separate sessions will be held for UKVI applicants. You must ensure you register for an ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test date at the locations listed at takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/book or ielts.org/testcentres

The IELTS test for UK visa purposes is designed to meet certain administrative requirements that are specific to UK Visas and Immigration. Test Report Forms will be slightly different, to show that test takers have taken the test at an IELTS UK visa session.

There are no differences in the test format or questions. The actual test taken is the same – same content, examiners, format, level of difficulty, scoring and so on.

Q If I take an IELTS test for UK visa purposes, can I use my result in other countries/for other purposes?
A Yes, IELTS test results are accepted by more than 10,000 organisations worldwide, including colleges, universities, governments and employers.

Q When will I get my results?
A Test results for computer-delivered IELTS are available within 3-5 days of your test.

Test results for paper-based IELTS are available within 13 days of your test.

Test results for IELTS for UKVI are available within 13 days of your test.

Test results for IELTS Life Skills are available within 7 days of your test.

Q How often can I retake my test?
A For IELTS and IELTS for UKVI, there are no restrictions on re-taking your test.

For IELTS Life Skills, if you pass the test you cannot retake it at the same level for a period of two years. If you do not pass it, there are no restrictions on retaking the test.

“IELTS for UKVI got me back to really focussing on the essential skills – Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.”
Q   What is the format of the IELTS Life Skills test?
A   You take the test with another test taker and one Examiner. Your own performance on both Speaking and Listening will be assessed during this one session.

Q   Why does IELTS Life Skills only cover Speaking and Listening?
A   The new test has been designed to meet specific immigration requirements where applicants only need to demonstrate Speaking and Listening skills.

Q   How long does the IELTS Life Skills test take?
A   IELTS Life Skills A1 takes 16-18 minutes, A2 20 minutes and B1 22 minutes.

Q   Is there any break between the Speaking and Listening sections?
A   No, you will be assessed on your Speaking and Listening skills at the same time.

Q   How is IELTS Life Skills assessed?
A   A certified IELTS Examiner will assess your performance throughout the Speaking and Listening test based on the following criteria:
   • Obtaining information
   • Conveying information
   • Speaking to communicate
   • Engaging in discussion
   The performance of the other test taker paired with you in the IELTS Life Skills test does not affect the assessment of your own performance.

Q   How many copies of the Test Report Form will I get?
A   You will receive one copy of the IELTS Life Skills Test Report Form.

To book your IELTS test, visit takeielts.org and follow the instructions to find your nearest test centre and choose a convenient date.

Remember there are two IELTS tests – IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training – so make sure you check which one is right for you before booking.

Checking which test is right for you
If you are applying to an organisation or institution, go to their website or search for them in the ‘Organisations that recognise IELTS’ section of takeielts.org to check their requirements.

If you are emigrating to another country, contact its immigration authority to find out which IELTS test and score you need.
Getting ready for your test

There are lots of ways to prepare for your test and understand how it works – from online courses and apps to face-to-face classes at British Council.

**Apps**

IELTS Prep App
This app gives you instant access to free practice tests, grammar tips, exercises, and quizzes. You’ll also find sample questions for Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, as well as vocabulary practice.

Word Power App
Build your vocabulary with over 100 questions to test your word skills.

LearnEnglish Audio & Video
Watch the most popular British Council content and follow the script to improve your listening skills.

Download from App Store or Google Play.

**Online Learning**

Road to IELTS
When you book with us, you get free unlimited access to Road to IELTS Last Minute course. This includes nine videos giving advice and tutorials, 75 interactive activities and six practice test papers.

Visit takeielts.org/prepare

LearnEnglish website
High-quality videos and podcasts, along with interactive exercises to help you improve your English.

Get started by testing your skill level at learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/content

The MOOCs ‘Understanding IELTS’
These are free online three-week courses covering the four sections of the test and featuring videos, test samples and quizzes.

Visit takeielts.org/mooc

IELTS WordReady
Personalised vocabulary learning to help you prepare for IELTS Academic.

Visit takeielts.org/prepare

Facebook
Follow the Take IELTS Official page on Facebook to take part in our weekly ‘Ask the IELTS Expert’ sessions.

Visit facebook.com/TakeIELTSOfficial

**Other resources**

Online practice tests
Get to know the IELTS test format and types of tasks you will be asked to undertake with these free practice tests.

Visit takeielts.org/prepare

Practice book
This printed book includes sample tests for the Academic and General Training tests as well as test tips.

Contact your test centre to order.

**Face-to-face learning**

Our IELTS preparation courses are carefully structured and specifically designed to help you prepare for IELTS.

Contact your nearest British Council centre for more details.

For more advice on taking your IELTS test, visit takeielts.org/prepare

“IELTS gave me more confidence when applying for university.”

Tang Shaonan, Shanghai, China
Choose how you take your IELTS test

You can choose either computer-delivered or paper-based IELTS for your Academic or General Training test. The only difference is for the Listening, Reading and Writing sections of your test, you can either type or write your answers. The choice is yours. The Speaking test is the same for both tests and is done face-to-face with a qualified IELTS Examiner.

More choice, same trusted test
Whichever route you choose, everything else is exactly the same – from the test content, scoring system and Report Form to the security measures that make IELTS the world’s trusted English language test. There is also an extensive range of preparation materials available to help you prepare for your test.

Timings will be slightly different for the Listening test. For paper-based IELTS you will need to transfer your answers to an answer sheet. With computer-delivered IELTS you will answer direct on to the computer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your preparation</th>
<th>Computer-delivered IELTS</th>
<th>Paper-based IELTS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The test content</td>
<td>The same</td>
<td>The same</td>
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<tr>
<td>How your test is scored</td>
<td>The same</td>
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<td>Our security measures</td>
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<td>Your Test Report Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Listening, Reading &amp; Writing sections</td>
<td>You’ll type your answers on a computer in a dedicated lab</td>
<td>You’ll write your answers on paper in a test room</td>
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<td>The Speaking section</td>
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<td>The same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your results</td>
<td>Within 3-5 days</td>
<td>13 days after your test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your test results

When do I receive my test score?
• Between 3–5 days if taking computer-delivered IELTS
• Within 13 days if taking paper-based IELTS
• Within 7 days if taking IELTS Life Skills

How do the IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training scores work?
You will be given a score from 1 to 9 for each section of the test – Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The average of those scores gives you your ‘band score’. A sample Test Report Form is to the right.

Find out more at takeielts.britishcouncil.org/teach-ielts/test-information/scores-explained

Send your results to up to five universities for free
Visit takeielts.britishcouncil.org/teach-ielts/test-information/results for more details.

How does the IELTS Life Skills score work?
You will be awarded either a pass or a fail. If you fail, your test cannot be used for your visa application.

Can I apply for a re-mark?
If you are unhappy with your test results, you can apply for your test to be remarked. This is called an Enquiry on Results.

You have up to six weeks after the test to make the request and can choose which section of the test you would like to be marked again.

The re-mark fee will be refunded if your score is increased. Contact your test centre to apply.