

**IELTS takes  
you places**

[takeielts.org](https://takeielts.org)



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.

# 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.

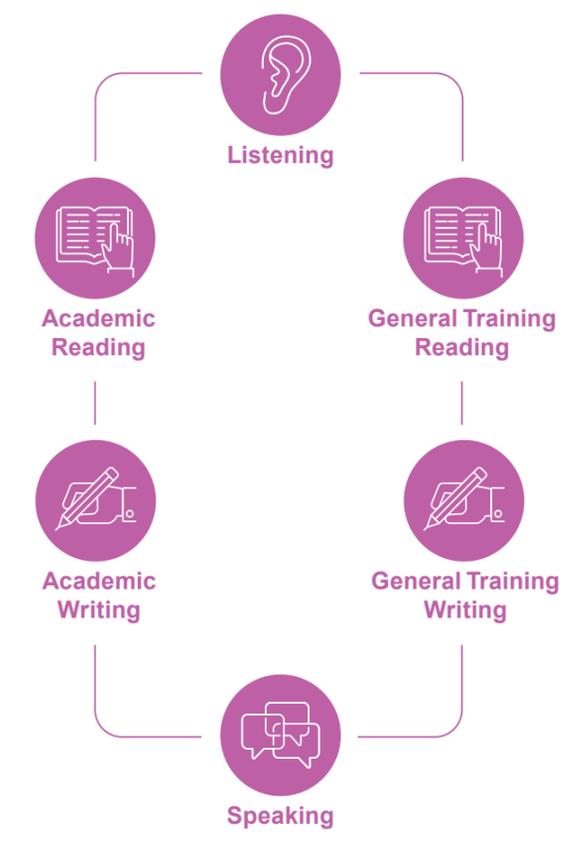
It helps you develop the kind of English you will need in everyday life whether you are at college, at work or talking to friends.

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:



# 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.



**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.

**+10,000**

organisations globally accept IELTS



**“The worldwide availability of IELTS makes it an attractive option.”**

*London School of Economics, UK*

“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*



## Who are we?

**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](https://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](https://takeielts.org) or by visiting a British Council test centre. Our friendly staff will help you every step of the way.

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

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.

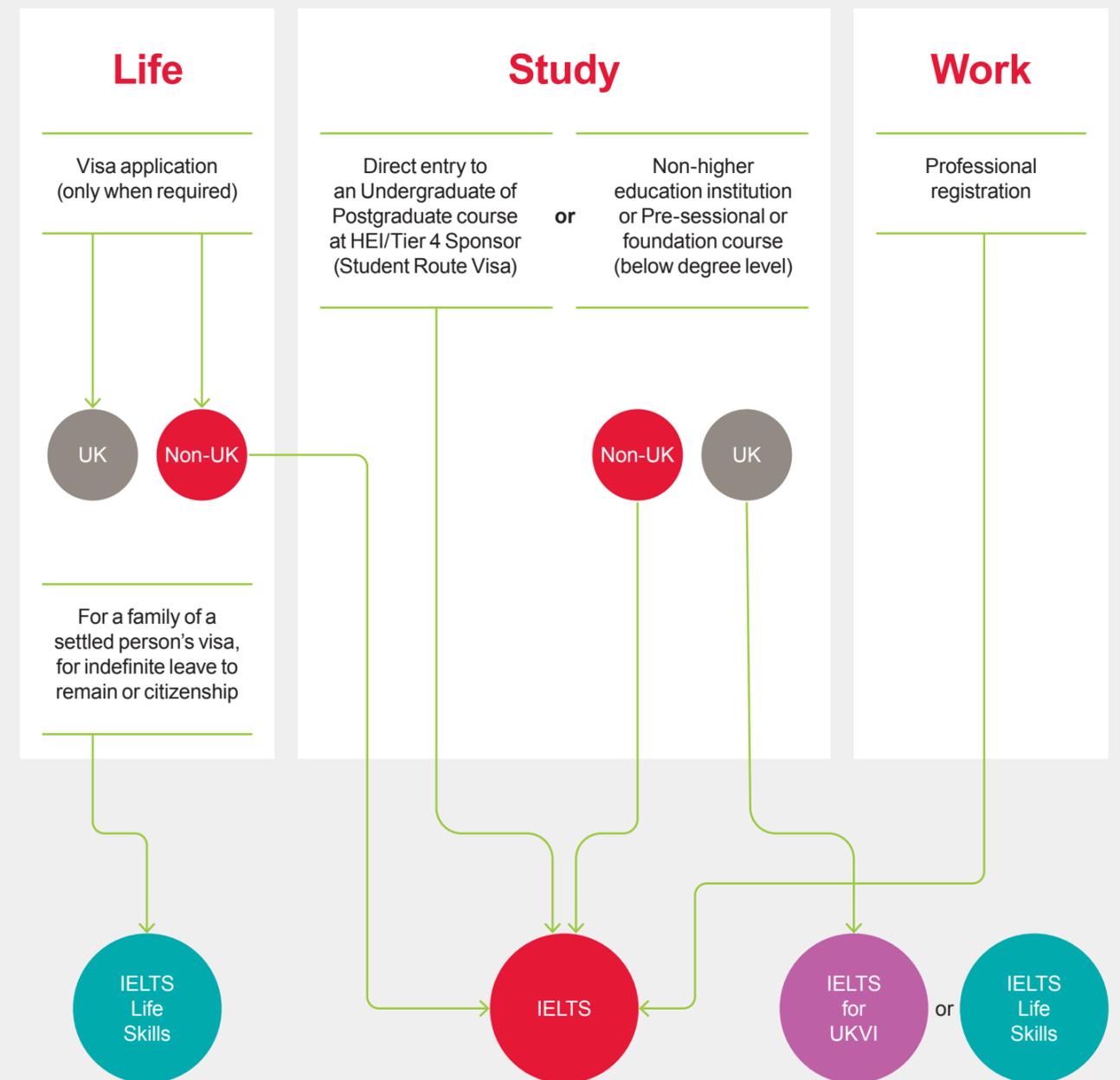
To find out whether you need to take an approved test, what level you need to achieve and which test you must use, you can use the chart below and also go to the UK Visas and Immigration site at [gov.uk/check-uk-visa](https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)

## 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](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa)

## Which IELTS test do you need to study in the 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](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/which-ielts-test/ukvi/life-skills)

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

# 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](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/book) or [ielts.org/testcentres](https://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](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/book) or [ielts.org/testcentres](https://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.

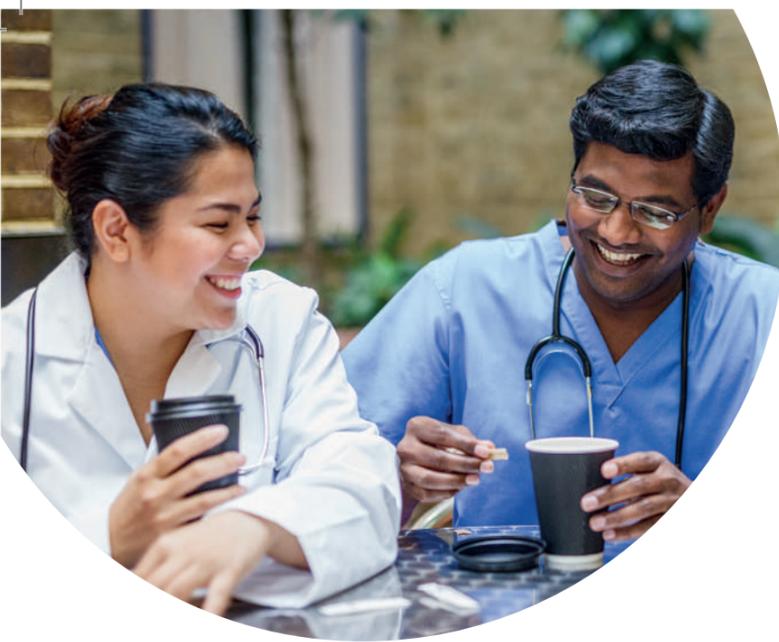
Test results for IELTS for UKVI are available within 13 days of your test.

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.



❶ **What is the format of the IELTS Life Skills test?**

Ⓐ 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.

❷ **Why does IELTS Life Skills only cover Speaking and Listening?**

Ⓐ The new test has been designed to meet specific immigration requirements where applicants only need to demonstrate Speaking and Listening skills.

❸ **How long does the IELTS Life Skills test take?**

Ⓐ IELTS Life Skills A1 takes 16-18 minutes, A2 20 minutes and B1 22 minutes.

❹ **Is there any break between the Speaking and Listening sections?**

Ⓐ No, you will be assessed on your Speaking and Listening skills at the same time.

❺ **How is IELTS Life Skills assessed?**

Ⓐ 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.

❻ **How many copies of the Test Report Form will I get?**

Ⓐ You will receive one copy of the IELTS Life Skills Test Report Form.

# Ready to book your IELTS test?

## Book online

Go to [takeielts.org](https://takeielts.org) to find your nearest test centre and choose a convenient date.



## Book in person

At your nearest test centre. Go to [takeielts.org](https://takeielts.org) to find your nearest test centre.



**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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://takeielts.org/mooc)

### IELTS WordReady

Personalised vocabulary learning to help you prepare for IELTS Academic.

Visit [takeielts.org/prepare](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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.



### Computer-delivered IELTS



### Paper-based IELTS

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.

	Computer-delivered IELTS	Paper-based IELTS
Your preparation	The same	
The test content	The same	
How your test is scored	The same	
Our security measures	The same	
Your Test Report Form	The same	
The Listening, Reading & Writing sections	You'll type your answers on a computer in a dedicated lab	You'll write your answers on paper in a test room
The Speaking section	The same	
Your results	Within 3-5 days	13 days after your test



# 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](http://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](http://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.

**INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM**  
**Test Report Form** ACADEMIC

NOTE: Admission to undergraduate and post graduate courses should be based on the *IELTS Academic Reading and Writing Modules*.  
GENERAL TRAINING Reading and Writing Modules are not designed to test the full range of language skills required for academic purposes.  
It is recommended that the candidate's language ability as indicated in the Test Report Form be re-assessed after two years from the date of the test.

Centre Number: GB599      Date: 13/FEB/2014      Candidate Number: 000193

**Candidate Details**

Family Name: MARTINEZ  
First Name: JOHN  
Candidate ID: F9960242

Date of Birth: 28/09/1984      Sex (MF): M      Scheme Code: Private Candidate

Country or Region of Origin:  
Country of Nationality: AFGHANISTAN  
First Language: AFRIKAANS

**Test Results**

Listening	8.0	Reading	7.5	Writing	6.5	Speaking	5.5	Overall Band Score	6.5
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Administrator Comments: [Redacted]

Centre stamp: UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE  
Validation stamp: IELTS

Administrator's Signature: [Redacted]

Date: 20/05/2014      Test Report Form Number: 19GB00193MAR1599A

BRITISH COUNCIL      idp      CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH Language Assessment  
Part of the University of Cambridge

The validity of this IELTS Test Report Form can be verified online by recognising organisations at <http://ielts.ucas.org.uk>

-  [youtube.com/BCIELTS](https://youtube.com/BCIELTS)
-  [facebook.com/takeieltsofficial](https://facebook.com/takeieltsofficial)
-  [twitter.com/takeielts](https://twitter.com/takeielts)
-  [opportunitiesabroad.org](mailto:opportunitiesabroad.org)
-  [linkedin.com/showcase/british-council-ielts](https://linkedin.com/showcase/british-council-ielts)
-  [instagram.com/takeieltsofficial](https://instagram.com/takeieltsofficial)

Useful links:

[takeielts.org](https://takeielts.org)

[ielts.org](https://ielts.org)

[britishcouncil.org](https://britishcouncil.org)

[learnenglish.britishcouncil.org](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org)