



Learning English as a foreign language

English has become an international language, used all round the globe as a way to communicate for study, employment, information or just life.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) maintains standards internationally. It is recognised by universities and employers in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada as a trusted and valid indicator of levels of ability to communicate in English. IELTS include listening, reading, writing and speaking and is currently being promoted to extend it's recognition in the USA

IELTS is jointly managed by the University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate (UCLES), the British Council and IDP Education Australia. The British Council currently offer IELTS examinations at 190 centres worldwide. IELTS study materials and preparation courses are also available at many of these centres.

The Global Recognition System (GRS) is an interactive and free global search tool to help candidates locate organisations that use the IELTS test scores for admission and registration. This can be accessed via the IELTS website (see below)

British universities will require students for whom English is a foreign language to achieve at least a level 5.0 and may ask for specific skills depending on the course. Check in the university prospectus before you apply.

Free samples of the IELTS tests plus course information are available online at: www.ielts.org

If English is not your first language

Most universities, but not all, require a certain level of written and spoken English. This can be achieved by offering a qualification such as

- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) usually at Band 6 or above
- CAE (Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English) is an exam for advanced users of English. This exam is aimed at people who can use written and spoken English for most professional and social purposes. It is widely recognised for work or study purposes.
- Cambridge ESOL Certificate of Proficiency in English at Grade C or above
- GCSE English Language or English Literature at Grade C or above.

[Cambridge ESOL](#) (English for Speakers of Other Languages) is the part of the University of Cambridge that provides qualifications for learners of English. The exams are well known for their high quality assessment of real English, as used in everyday work, study and leisure situations.

The [Cambridge English](#) diagram shows how the different qualifications related to each other. There are often waiting lists for IELTS. CAE is the exam that reflects level 6-6.5 at IELTS. There are about 50 IELTS centres in the UK and over 350 CAE centres. For the locations of these centres go to the [Cambridge ESOL Exam Centres](#) link.

Addresses of IELTS Course Centres in the Southeast

IELTS Administrator
Chaucer College, University Rd., Canterbury CT2 7LJ
Tel. +44 (0) 1227 819 033
www.chaucercollege.co.uk/ielts.html

English Language Administrator
Department of Language & Translation Studies
Austin Pearce Building, University of Surrey,
Guildford GU2 7XH
Tel. +44 (0)1483 689912
www.surrey.ac.uk/languages/English/ielts/ielts_programme.html

IELTS Administrator
King's School Oxford
St Joseph's Hall, Temple Rd., Oxford OX4 2UJ
Tel. +44 (0)1865 711829
www.kingsoxford.co.uk

IELTS Administrator
Mayflower College of English, 1 Radford Road,
The Hoe, Plymouth PL1 3BY
Tel. +44 (0)1752 604105
www.maycoll.co.uk/ielts.html

IELTS Administrator
Language Specialist Institute
1-13 Lord Montgomery Way, Portsmouth PO1 2AH
Tel. +44 (0) 23 9229 1811
www.LSI-international.co.uk

IELTS Administrator
Centre for Language Study
University of Southampton
Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ
Tel +44 (0) 23 8059 8918
www.soton.ac.uk/cls/ielts/index.html

IELTS Administrator
Richard Language College
43-45, Wimborne Rd., Bournemouth BH3 7AB
Tel.+44 (0) 1202 203 080
www.ielts-richard-college-bournemouth-uk.co.uk

IELTS Administrator
Study Group Study Centre
1, Billinton Way, Brighton BN1 4LF

Tel.+44 (0)1273 339 368
Email: awhisken@studygroup.com

Other English Language Tests

For unbiased broader information about English language testing look at the British Council's dedicated English language website

www.learnenglish.org.uk

The Cambridge Certificates (Proficiency, First, Advanced and Business)

www.cambridgeesol.org

TOEFL (Tests of English as Foreign Language) is recognised by almost all higher education institutions, including Oxford and Cambridge University. It is also recognised by most Australian universities, more than 700 European universities and 5,000 colleges and universities in the US and Canada.

www.TOEFLgoanywhere.org

www.toefl.org

www.ets.org