

What is IELTS?

The international English language testing system (IELTS) is the world's most popular English language proficiency test for higher education and global migration, with over 2 million tests taken in the last year.

IELTS assesses all of your English skills — reading, writing, listening and speaking, and is designed to reflect how you will use English at study, at work, and at play, in your new life abroad.

The IELTS test is developed by some of the world's leading experts in language assessment. It has an excellent international reputation, and is accepted by over 9,000 organisations worldwide, including schools, universities, employers, immigration authorities and professional bodies.

IELTS is the most widely accepted English language test that uses a one-on-one speaking test to assess your English communication skills. This means that you are assessed by having a real-life conversation with a real person. This is the most effective and natural way of testing your English conversation skills.

You can take [IELTS Academic or IELTS General Training](#) – depending on the organisation you are applying to and your plans for the future.

Whatever your reason for taking IELTS, make the most of your language skills.

Which version of IELTS is right for you?

Check with the organisations you wish to apply to before you book your test!

There are two versions of IELTS to choose from:

- IELTS Academic
- IELTS General Training

Please note that if you are taking IELTS for UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) purposes then additional options (and rules) are applicable. Visit [what is IELTS for UKVI](#) for relevant information.

Make sure you know which one you need before you book your test.

What do you want to do?	The version you need
I want to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• study at university at undergraduate or postgraduate level; or• join a professional organisation in an English-speaking country	You should take IELTS Academic
I want to:	You should take IELTS General Training

What do you want to do?	The version you need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • train or study at below degree level • work or undertake work-related training in an English-speaking country • emigrate to an English-speaking country 	

Find out which test you need

Every organisation sets its own entry requirements. In some cases, both versions of IELTS may be accepted.

Visit [Who accepts IELTS?](#) to search for the organisations you want to apply to, and find out which version you need. If you are in doubt as to which version to take, you should contact the organisations directly in order to check their requirements.

Whichever test version you choose, IELTS can help you make the most of your time in your chosen country.

What is IELTS for UKVI?

'IELTS for UKVI' is a UK government approved Secure English Language Test (SELT). This means that IELTS can be used to prove your English language abilities in support of a UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) application.

For many categories of visa, you must submit an English language qualification which is included on the UK Home Office's list of Secure English Language Tests (SELT tests).

The following IELTS tests are on this list and have been approved for UK Visas and Immigration purposes:

Test	Version	Purpose
IELTS	Academic	This test is for test takers wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels, and for those seeking professional registration in the UK.
IELTS	General Training	This test is for test takers wishing to migrate to the UK and for those wishing to train or study below degree level.
IELTS Life Skills	B1	This test is for those who need to prove their English speaking and listening skills as part of their application to UK Visas and Immigration for indefinite leave to remain or citizenship.

IELTS Life Skills	A1	This test is for those who need to prove their English speaking and listening skills as part of their application to UK Visas and Immigration for 'family of a settled person' visas.
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IELTS (Academic or General Training)

If you're applying for Tier 1 and Tier 2 visas to the UK, this is the test for you.

IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training for UKVI are designed to meet certain administrative requirements that are specified by the UK Home Office.

The actual test taken is the same as IELTS (for all other purposes), same content, examiners, format, level of difficulty, scoring and so on.

The difference is in the customer journey on the test day. Test Report Forms will be slightly different, to show that you have taken the test at an IELTS UK visa session.

IELTS Life Skills

If you're applying for a 'family of a settled person' visa, for indefinite leave to remain or citizenship, IELTS Life Skills is the test for you.

IELTS Life Skills is a new test, approved by UKVI as a Secure English Language Test (SELT).

It's for people who need to show they have speaking and listening skills at Level A1 or B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Prepare for IELTS Life Skills

For the best preparation, we recommend that you familiarise yourself with the format of the IELTS Life Skills test and complete a practice test. Free practise materials are available below.

At what level is IELTS Life Skills?

IELTS Life Skills is available at A1 and B1 levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This is an international standard used around the world to describe learners' language skills.

Test format

What happens during the test?

There are two main parts to IELTS Life Skills.

- In the first part, you are expected to ask and answer questions on familiar topics.
- The second part is a combined listening and speaking task.
- At level A and level B, you will listen to a task played on a CD. Completing the task allows you to show your ability to listen for both the general meaning and detail.
- You will say your answers, although you can make notes on paper while you listen to the CD.
- There will then be a discussion on a theme related to what you have listened to on the CD.
- Additionally, at B1 level, there is also a task where you plan an activity with the other candidate.

How long is the test?

For *IELTS Life Skills* you only need to attend one short session to complete the test. The times allowed for each level are:

- *IELTS Life Skills* - A1 Speaking and Listening 16–18 minutes
- *IELTS Life Skills* - B1 Speaking and Listening 22 minutes.

How will I be assessed in the test?

You will be assessed on your ability in four key areas:

- obtaining information
- conveying information
- speaking to communicate
- engaging in discussion.

At times during the test, you will be allowed to take notes to prepare your answers. The examiner will not mark your notes – only your speaking and listening skills are marked during the test.

Why do I take the test with another candidate?

IELTS Life Skills tests how well you can communicate with other people in everyday English. The best way to test these skills is to pair candidates at a similar level of ability, so you can show how well you can speak English to communicate and engage in discussion with others.

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IELTS test date availability across the globe

You can take your IELTS test with the British Council in over 130 countries. Many different test dates are available and tests typically take place up to once a week.

Please note that the following information is not applicable to IELTS for UK Visa and Immigration purposes. For information on the availability of IELTS for UKVI visit [How to book an IELTS for UKVI test](#).

The British Council schedules the following global IELTS test dates:

- IELTS Academic: 48 days per year
- IELTS General Training: 24 days per year

This means that your local British Council test centre can offer IELTS tests on any of these days, although dates may vary in some centres, according to local demand.

You will usually take the Listening, Reading and Writing tests on Thursdays or Saturdays, and the Speaking test either on the same day, or seven days before or after that.

Take a look at the Global IELTS test dates table below and find the date that suits you best. Then go to [Book IELTS](#) and check the local schedule.

Next steps

IELTS

The test fee is AED 920

You can take IELTS with the British Council in over 140 countries worldwide. IELTS tests are provided up to four times a month at test centres across the globe.

IELTS booking checklist

Carry-out the following activities **before** starting the booking process:

- **Check your required IELTS test type** - There are two versions of the test, IELTS Academic or IELTS General Training. You will need to know which type of test you are registering for prior to booking. For more information, see [which version of IELTS is right for you?](#)
- **Prepare your Identity documentation** - You may need a photocopy of your valid passport or national identity card where appropriate (on test day you must bring the same identification as used for booking). As an added measure to enhance IELTS test security, all participants are required to have their photograph taken by IELTS administrative staff on their test day.
- **Prepare your payment method** - Requirements vary so check with your booking centre.

Then:

- **Book your test** - Click on '**Book IELTS**' below.
- **After Booking** - Please make sure that you review the instructions supplied to you after you have booked your test.

[Book IELTS](#)

IELTS for UK Visas and Immigration

IELTS for UK Visas and Immigration AED 1,120

IELTS Life Skills AED 840

If you need an IELTS test result as part of your application to UKVI, you will need to take your test at a specific test location.

Your test type

Before booking, check which test you need and the level you need to achieve: [UK Visas and Immigration website](#).

Test Type

For information

Test Type	For information
IELTS Academic for UK Visas and Immigration	This test is for test takers wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels and for those seeking professional registration in the UK. The test involves Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.
IELTS General Training for UK Visas and Immigration	This test is for test takers wishing to migrate to the UK and for those wishing to train or study below degree level. The test involves Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.
IELTS Life Skills A1	<p>This test is for those who need to prove their English Speaking and Listening skills as part of their application to UK Visas and Immigration for the Family, Spouse or Partner visa.</p> <p>The A1 level is within the Common European Framework of References for Languages (CEFR), the equivalent to ESOL Entry 1 on the National Qualification Framework (NQF).</p> <p>The test involves Speaking and Listening.</p>
IELTS Life Skills B1	<p>This test is for those who need to prove their English Speaking and Listening skills as part of their application to UK Visas and Immigration for the citizen or settlement visa.</p> <p>The B1 level is within the Common European Framework of References for Languages (CEFR), the equivalent to ESOL Entry 3 on the National Qualification Framework (NQF).</p> <p>The test involves Speaking and Listening.</p>

If you are applying to move to or stay in the UK and have to take IELTS for this purpose, register for the test through this site by following the registration instructions below.

IELTS test for UKVI includes IELTS Academic, IELTS General Training, IELTS Life Skills A1 and IELTS Life Skills B1. It is important to know the type of IELTS test you are required to register for and select the right test type and the location.

How to Register:

Step 1: Choose a test type.

Step 2: Select 'location' and 'month' from drop down options available and click 'Next'.

Step 3: View the availability of all the test dates at different test centres across the selected location and select your preferred option by clicking 'Apply'.

Step 4: Register for an account for an IELTS test by filling in the essential fields and read the Terms and Conditions for account registration. Tick the box to complete this step.

Step 5: Log In to continue with your test registration.

Step 6: You will be able to view the details of your test at this step. Click on 'Book test' to continue. If you would like to change your test details, click on 'Select another test'.

Step 7-9: You'll be able to view your account registration information. Click 'Continue' to provide the other essential information in 3 steps.

Step 10: Confirm that you have read and accepted IELTS Terms and Conditions.

Step 11: Choose the payment method. Refer section B of this page to view the acceptable payment methods at the centre.

Step 12: You will receive automated emails for your test date and payment confirmation as you complete each step.

Test fees:

IELTS Test for UKVI: AED 1120/-

IELTS Life Skills A1: AED 840/-

IELTS Life Skills B1: AED 840/-

Acceptable IDs:

1. Passport, or,
2. Emirates ID

Test Day:

You are required to produce your original and valid identification document (ID) on the Test day. It must be the same ID with which you register for the test. Refer to section B for more information.

If you fail to bring your original and valid ID on the test day, you will not be allowed to continue with your test. You may also lose your entire test fee.

In addition to this, you will also be required to submit a copy of the same ID on the test day.