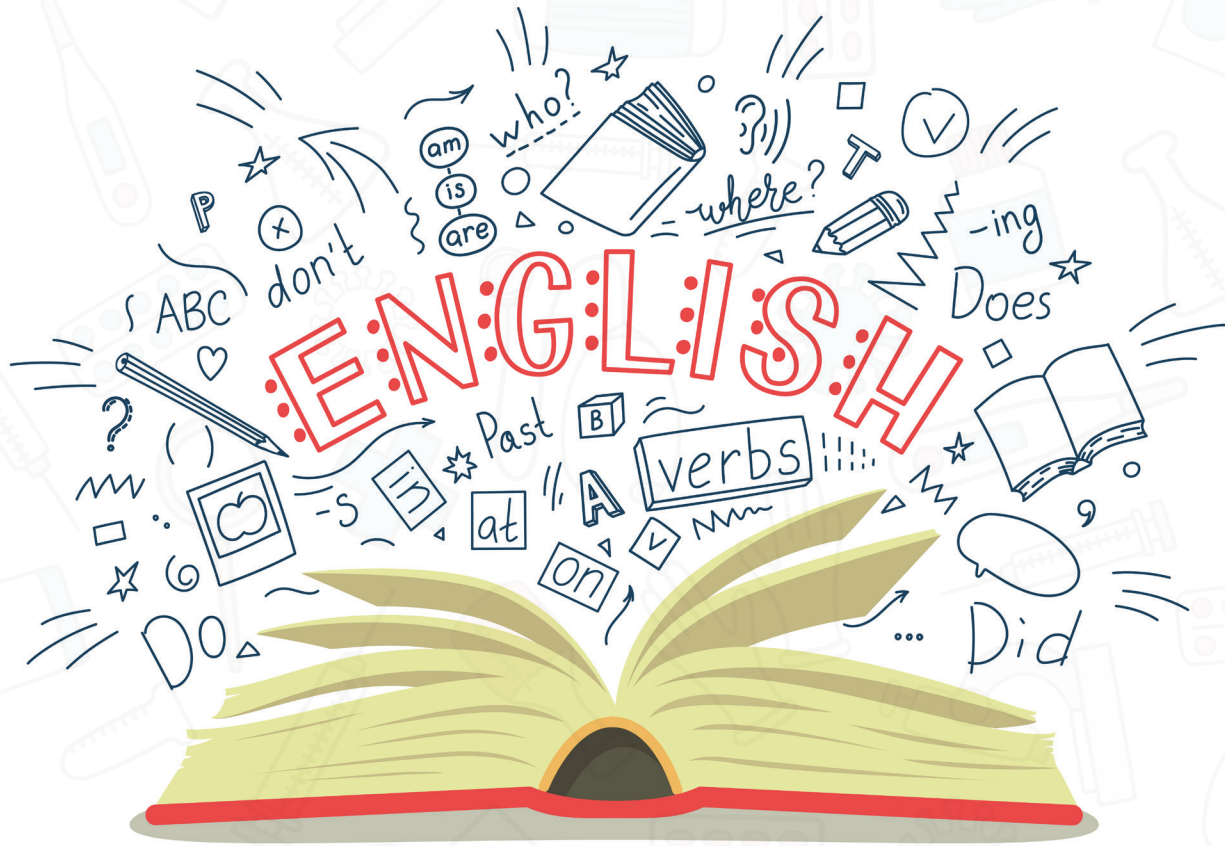


FAQS ABOUT ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS FOR PROSPECTIVE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS



THE FOLLOWING CONTENT IS PROVIDED AND SPONSORED BY IDP IELTS TESTING

The following page* aims to answer the frequently asked questions about English Language Tests, including about the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) Academic test, which is accepted by most countries and course providers around the world.

The IELTS for UKVI academic test is mandatory for those who need to study a foundation course in the UK because of the visa requirements set by the UK Government.

*The following content has been compiled based on inputs by one of the two of the IELTS co-owners and only two IELTS for UKVI (UK Visas & Immigration) providers in the Sultanate of Oman: IDP. Please note that HEAC and Oman's Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) cannot accept any liability for information about available English language tests and strictly maintains a neutral stand on the available tests.

ANSWERS TO FAQs ABOUT IELTS FOR UKVI PROVIDED BY IDP IELTS TESTING IN OMAN

1. WHAT IS AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST AND WHICH ONE SHOULD I TAKE?

An English language test measures your English language skills. Most higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Sultanate and abroad accept more than one type of English language test, including the IELTS Academic test and IELTS for UKVI Academic test. Admissions teams at institutions will usually state which test(s) they prefer for direct admission, the minimum overall grade they expect, and the grades they require in writing, speaking, listening, and reading. Admissions teams at HEIs act as a central enquiry point for students, who are thinking of applying for an undergraduate degree.

2. WHAT IS IELTS?

If you are a prospective undergraduate degree student, the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is an English language proficiency test designed to help you study in an English-speaking environment. Your ability to listen, read, write, and speak in English will be assessed during the test. IELTS is graded on a scale of 1-9. IELTS is jointly owned by the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge Assessment English.

3. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IELTS ACADEMIC TEST AND IELTS GENERAL TRAINING OPTION AND WHICH ONE DO I NEED FOR MY HIGHER UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES?

The IELTS Writing and Reading test components are different in the Academic and General Training tests. For instance, the Academic test focuses on topics suitable for anyone entering university or professional institutions, while the General Training test is based on topics of general interest. As a prospective student, and if you are considering taking an IELTS test, you will need to take the IELTS Academic or the IELTS for UKVI Academic.

4. WHAT IS IELTS FOR UKVI ACADEMIC TEST?

- UKVI stands for UK Visas and Immigration. It is a Secure English Language test (SELT) approved by the home office for visa applications to the United Kingdom (UK). This means this test has been designed to meet certain requirements set by the UK Government and that are specific to UK Visas and Immigration procedures.

- The IELTS Academic for UKVI test is the same as the 'regular' IELTS Academic test in terms of content, format, scoring and the level of difficulty, the main difference are increased security settings to curb cheating practices.

- The IELTS UKVI Academic test can be accepted by most, if not all, Higher Education Institutions in Oman and abroad, while it is mandatory in view of student visa applications for those who first have to take a course below undergraduate degree level in the UK (e.g. a foundation course).

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5. WHICH TEST SUITS ME BEST?

- The UKVI version of the IELTS test is mandatory for prospective students who will pursue a foundation course in the UK.
- For courses at undergraduate degree level or any courses in countries other than the UK, you should check to reconfirm that IELTS for UKVI and/or which other tests are accepted by the institutions that offer these courses.
- If you are NOT planning to competitively apply for any scholarship allocated to the United Kingdom or if you are expected to meet the direct entry requirements set by HEIs in the UK (e.g. you are an international qualification holder), you can consider to take the 'regular' IELTS Academic option.
- However, if you are planning to competitively apply for a scholarship allocated to the United Kingdom and think you will be below the degree level (for example, you first have to pursue a foundation course), you may want to opt for the IELTS for UKVI Academic test instead.

6. WHY ARE STUDENTS ADVISED TO TAKE THE IELTS FOR UKVI?

Although most HEIs do accept more than one type of English language test, it is also true that students who will be competitively awarded a scholarship to study in the UK and who will have to pursue a foundation programme (e.g. GED qualification holders) may require the IELTS for UKVI test for visa application procedures. Bear in mind that the IELTS for UKVI has also been accepted in other study destinations.

7. IS THE IELTS ACADEMIC TEST ACCEPTED IN ALL COUNTRIES?

Yes, but it is important to note that if you are competitively awarded a scholarship to study in the United Kingdom (UK), and, based on your type of school qualification (e.g. GED) and/or not quite meeting the direct entry requirements set by a university, you have to first study a foundation course in the UK. And for this and for visa and immigration purposes, you will have to submit an academic IELTS for UKVI test.

8. IS THE IELTS FOR UKVI (ACADEMIC) TEST ACCEPTED IN ALL COUNTRIES?

Yes.

9. BY WHEN SHOULD I TAKE AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST?

We strongly recommend that you take a test while you register for scholarships and before you sit for your final exams. The test score does not affect your ability to competitively apply for scholarships (unless a minimum IELTS score is required to apply for a particular scholarship).

10. WHERE CAN I TAKE AN IELTS FOR UKVI TEST? HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THIS TEST? HOW MUCH DOES A TEST COST?

Please refer to the British Council and IDP as they are currently the only two IELTS for UKVI Academic test providers in the Sultanate.

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