



The US Says Yes to IELTS

EducationUSA Triennial Workshop
Prague, CZ

Beryl E. Meiron
Helga Stellmacher

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Today's Agenda

1. Introduction to IELTS

- What makes a good language proficiency test?
- History, statistics and US recognizing institutions views of IELTS

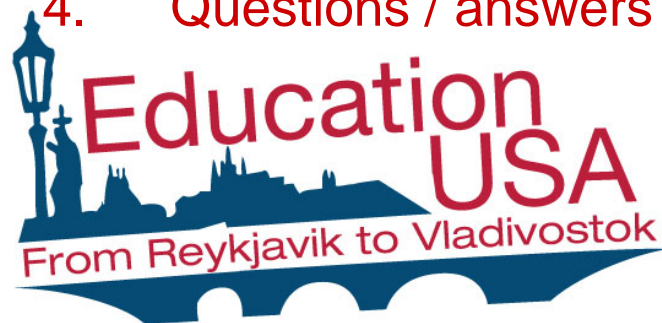
2. IELTS Fundamentals and Format

- The test modules: listening, reading, writing and speaking
- Scoring
- A look at the speaking test in detail

3. Stakeholder services

- IELTS in Eurasia - What's available to you: test centers, online resources, preparation material, assisting advisees with IELTS
- Stakeholders in the US – What's available to receiving institutions: TRFVS, electronic score downloads, etc.

4. Questions / answers



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What is IELTS?

A test of English as an international language designed....

1. To assess the English language ability of non-native speakers who intend to study at undergraduate, graduate and professional schools where English is the language of communication
2. To test communicative language proficiency
3. As a 4-skills test including listening, reading, writing, and a live, face-to-face speaking test performed by a trained, certified ESL professional



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An extensive history and testing heritage

- 1970s - “ELTS” (English Language Testing Service) test introduced by the British Council
- 1989 - IELTS international joint partnership formed
- 1995 - major content revision
- 2001 - revised speaking test (3 sections)
- 2005 - revised writing assessment criteria
- 2007 - launch of half-band scores for writing and speaking
- 2008 - web-based administration system
- 2009 - 20th birthday celebration, launch of new website
- Upcoming – internet-based test delivery



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What are the characteristics of a good English language proficiency test?

...and why are more and more US schools recognizing IELTS?

- Validity (content and construct)
- Reliability
- Impact (washback, test takers, stakeholders)
- Practicality



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Validity

- Ongoing research and continuing development on construct and content validity
- Test content matched to test taker and stakeholder needs
 - Task-based items using multiple task types (geared to learning and test taking styles)
 - Integrated skills
 - Face-to-face speaking
 - Pen and paper delivery



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Reliability

- **Test material production**
 - Test paper production process is a 2-year process – pre-editing to live item release
 - International item writing teams – US, Canada, UK and Australia
 - All test versions are unique
- **Assessment**
 - Clerical markers (listening and reading)
 - Examiners (writing and speaking)
 - Must meet minimum professional requirements
 - Trained, certified by examination, performance monitored
 - Regularly standardized, monitored and retrained and recertified



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Practicality

- 48 test dates annually – Saturdays and Thursdays
- Registrations accepted close to test day
- Results available in 13 calendar days
- Special needs candidates
- “Enquiry on Results”
- Security
 - Time zones
 - Staff training and center audits (announced and unannounced)
 - Multiple test taker identity checks throughout the test day
 - Results cancellation
 - TRF verification website



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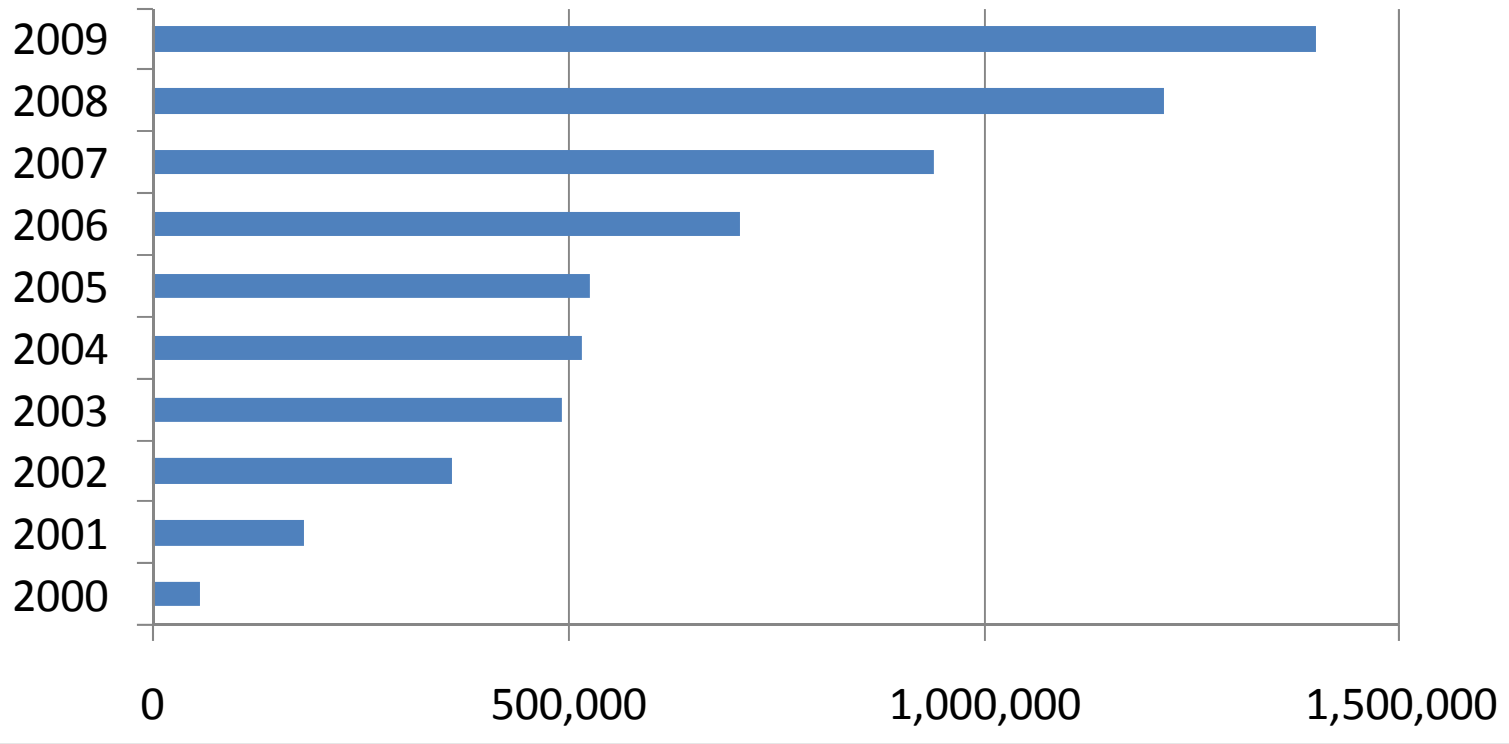
Impact

- High stakes
- Consequences for
 - Test takers
 - Sponsors
 - Receiving institutions
 - Teachers
 - Publishers
 - Academic researchers
 - Government agencies
- Washback - consequences on the teaching / learning environment



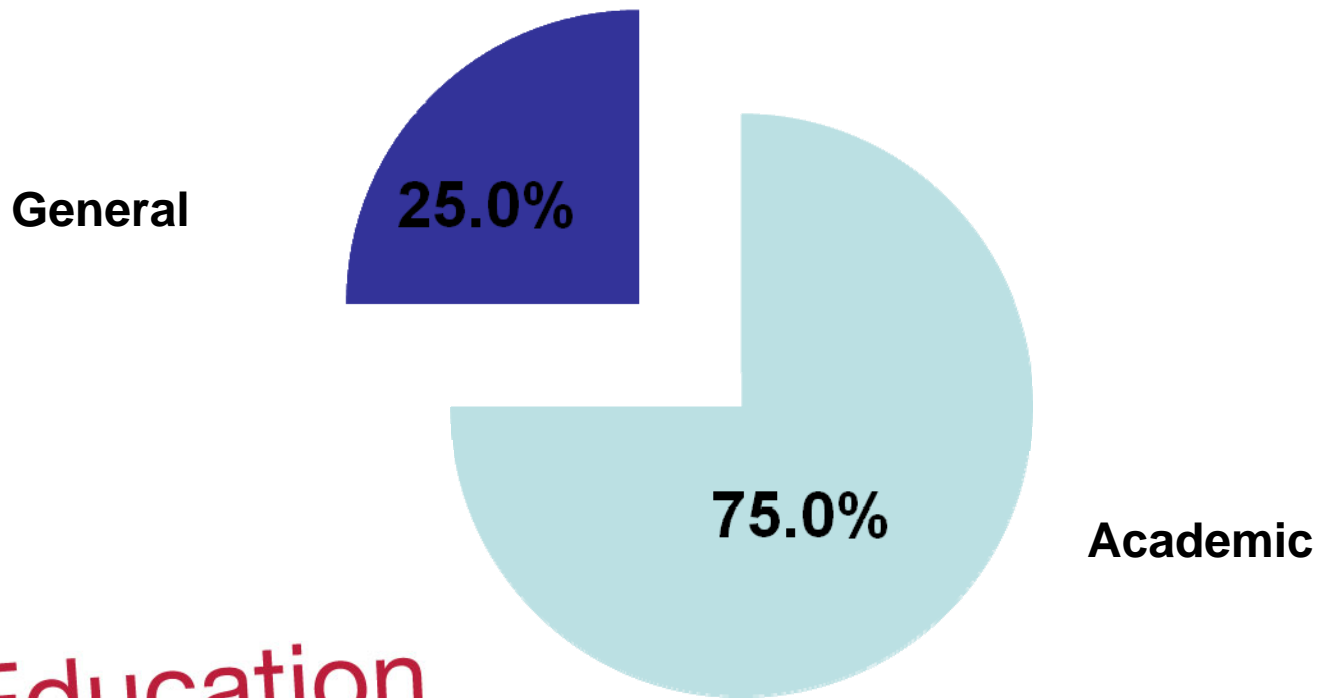
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Global candidature growth: 1.4 million test takers in 2009



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Global Candidature Breakdown (2009)



“Top 10” for US-bound Students (Global)

Nationalities of test takers	Countries where tests are taken
1. China	1. China
2. Philippines	2. United States
3. India	3. Philippines
4. Saudi Arabia	4. India
5. South Korea	5. Nepal
6. Nepal	6. South Korea
7. Hong Kong	7. Hong Kong
8. Thailand	8. Vietnam
9. Vietnam	9. Thailand
10. Libya	10. France



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“Top 10” for US-bound Students (Eurasia)

Countries where tests are taken

1. France
2. Germany
3. Italy
4. Russia
5. Turkey
6. Spain
7. Kazakhstan
8. Switzerland
9. Belgium
10. Netherlands



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Assisting international student recruitment

Online searches for US and globally-recognizing schools

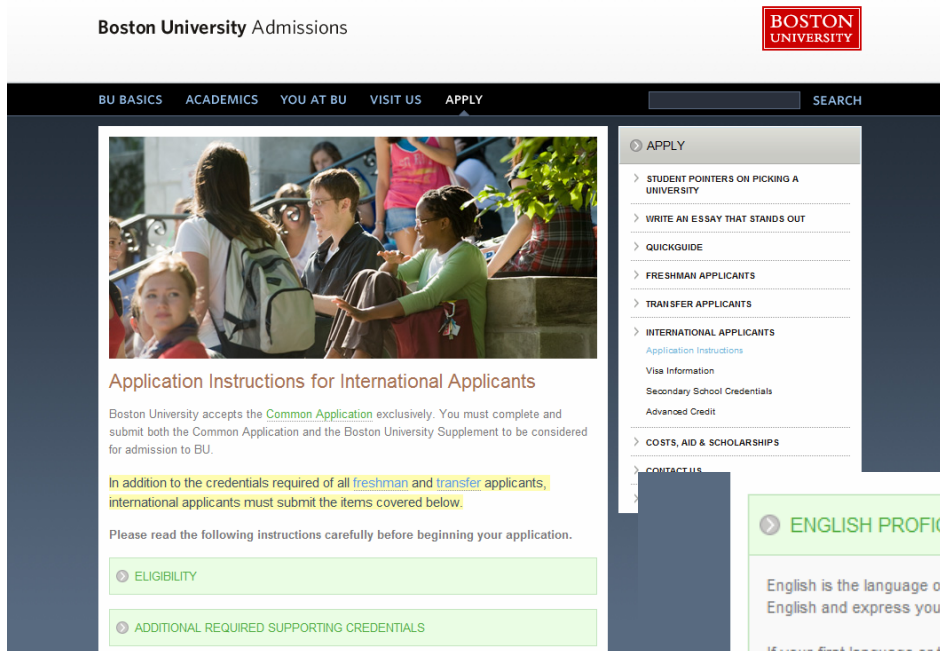
The screenshot shows the IELTS website's search interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About us, Media centre, FAQs, and Contact us. Below this is the IELTS logo with the tagline 'English for International Opportunity'. A secondary navigation bar contains tabs for Test takers, Institutions (which is highlighted), Researchers, and Teachers. The main content area is titled 'Who accept IELTS?' and features a 'Detailed Search' section. This section includes a search box for 'Search by location', a 'Select institution' dropdown, and radio buttons for 'All Institutions' (selected), 'Professional Associations', 'Employers', and 'Government Agencies'. A 'SEARCH' button is positioned below these options. To the right of the search area are two buttons: 'Government Agencies' and 'Register your organisation'. The footer of the page displays logos for the British Council, IELTS Australia, the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, and a 20-year anniversary logo for IELTS, stating 'Setting the standard for English since 1989'.



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Boston University, Boston, MA

<http://www.bu.edu/admissions/apply/international/application-instructions/>



Boston University Admissions

BU BASICS ACADEMICS YOU AT BU VISIT US APPLY SEARCH

Application Instructions for International Applicants

Boston University accepts the [Common Application](#) exclusively. You must complete and submit both the Common Application and the Boston University Supplement to be considered for admission to BU.

In addition to the credentials required of all [freshman](#) and [transfer](#) applicants, international applicants must submit the items covered below.

Please read the following instructions carefully before beginning your application.

- ELIGIBILITY
- ADDITIONAL REQUIRED SUPPORTING CREDENTIALS

APPLY

- STUDENT POINTERS ON PICKING A UNIVERSITY
- WRITE AN ESSAY THAT STANDS OUT
- QUICKGUIDE
- FRESHMAN APPLICANTS
- TRANSFER APPLICANTS
- INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS
 - Application Instructions
 - Visa Information
 - Secondary School Credentials
 - Advanced Credit
- COSTS, AID & SCHOLARSHIPS
- CONTACT US

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

English is the language of instruction at Boston University. You must be able to understand rapid, idiomatic English and express yourself clearly in speech and writing.

If your first language or the primary language spoken in your home is not English, you must take either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

In lieu of the TOEFL exam, you may submit the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A score of 7 or higher will also satisfy BU's English Language proficiency requirement for all programs. Learn more on the [IELTS website](#).



MIT, Boston, MA

<http://math.mit.edu/academics/grad/admission/>

MIT MATHEMATICS

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Undergraduate Graduate About the Program Admission

Admission

Overview of the Application Procedure

Welcome to the MIT Mathematics Graduate Admissions page. This page explains the application process in general. For complete details, go to the [on-line application](#). These instructions are repeated there.

2. Arrange for submission of (official reports only)

- o letters of recommendation
- o college transcripts
- o GRE general and math subject scores
- o IELTS (international students only)

It is most helpful if your letter writers submit evaluations by the end of December. Once you have submitted your on-line application, instructions to your letter writers will be generated for you. You are responsible for making sure that your letter writers have copies of these instructions.

IELTS is the only English language proficiency test accepted by MIT. To have IELTS results reported, indicate Mathematics Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), on your IELTS test application. No code or address is needed. IELTS submits results electronically to MIT. (IELTS is owned jointly by the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia, and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations.)



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“We prefer applicants take IELTS to demonstrate English proficiency over other methods. Students who use IELTS when applying are consistently able to communicate at the tested level upon arrival. In our experience, we have never had a student with an adequate IELTS score arrive on campus and have difficulty communicating in English.

Students and families consistently report that IELTS is more available, has shorter waiting periods, and provides better customer service than other English proficiency exams.”

Don Buegel
Director of International Recruiting and Support
Concordia College
Moorhead, MN



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"I think IELTS has always been very responsive to both of their client populations - the students and the schools.

I think the environment for the test is a little more comfortable for people because there is the person-to-person.

We feel it is reliable, it's valid, and they're very responsive to our needs."

Dr. Kristin Williams

**Assistant Vice President for Graduate and Special Enrollment
Management**

The George Washington University



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"The advantage of IELTS is that it is as rigorous as other tests, but it just makes students feel more comfortable when they take it.

I work for Boston University and I know that many schools and colleges accept IELTS for admission.

I think in the United States, IELTS is becoming much more well-known and accepted by universities and is really setting the standard for college admissions."

**Dr. Carol Pinero
Boston University
Center for English Language and Orientation Programs**



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Europe Speaks IELTS!



- Dramatic increase in uptake by HEIs
- Entry/study placements/progress/exit
- *HEC, Sciences Po (France), Webster University (Austria), Vesalius College, UCL (Belgium), Mannheim Business School, Frei University, (Germany), Bocconi, Turin/Milan Polytechnic (Italy), ESADE, IESE (Spain) University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)*

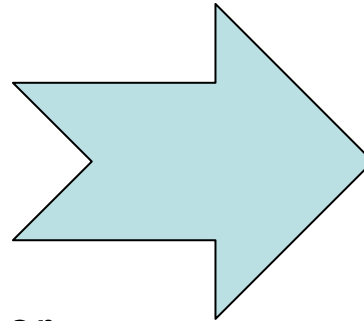


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How is IELTS Scored? Band Scores

IELTS uses a 9-point scoring system to measure and report test scores (See www.ielts.org and *Guide*)

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| 9 | Expert User |
| 8 | <i>Very Good User</i> |
| 7 | <i>Good User</i> |
| 6 | <i>Competent User</i> |
| 5 | <i>Modest User</i> |
| 4 | Limited User |
| 3 | Extremely Limited User |
| 2 | Intermittent User |
| 1 | Non User |
| 0 | Did Not Attempt the Test |



Most frequently
used scores
for US admissions

IELTS and the CEFR

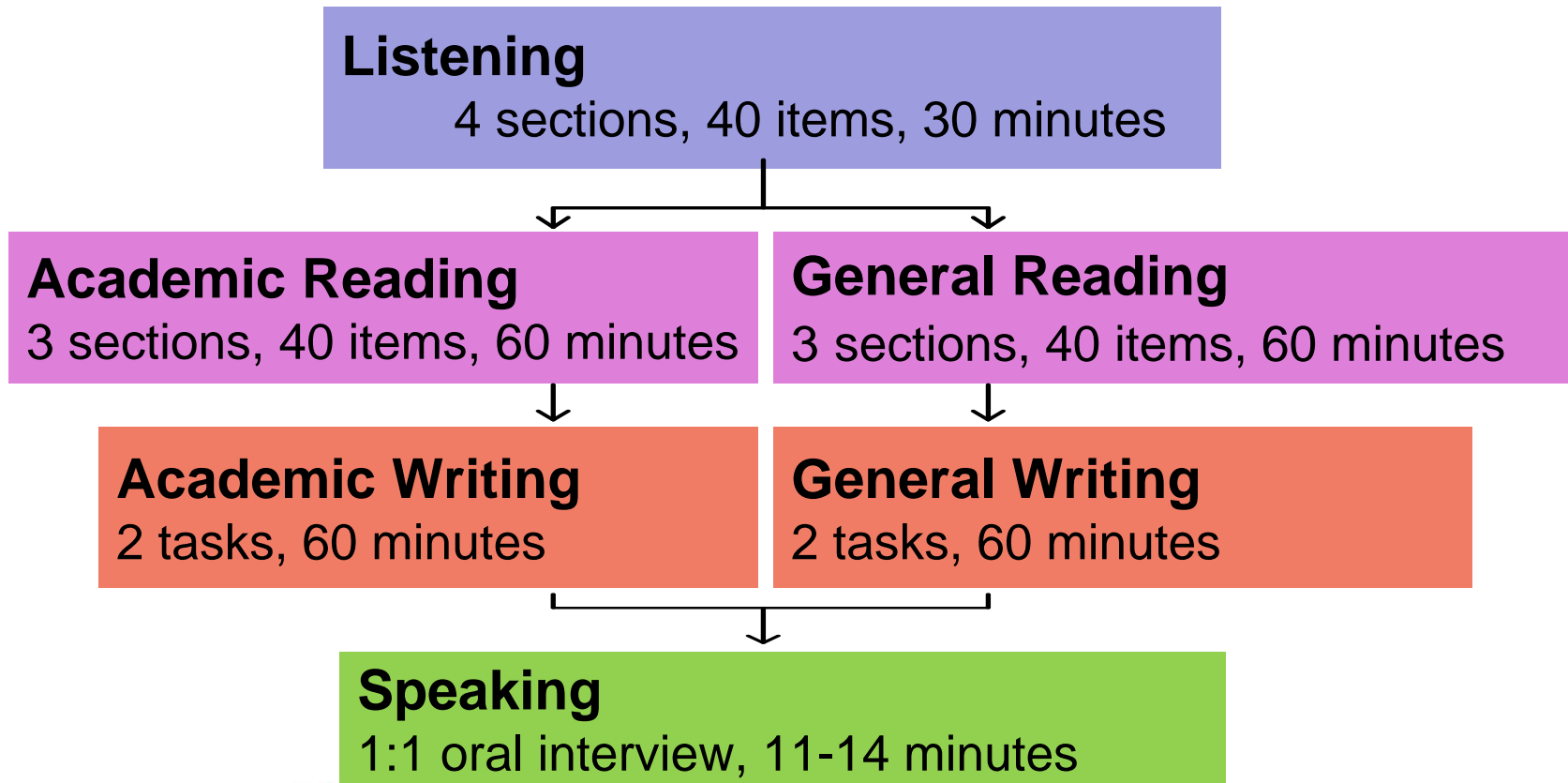
IELTS	CEFR
9.0 - Expert user	
	C2 - Mastery
8.0 – Very good	
7.0 – Good user	
	C1 - Effective Operational Proficiency
6.0 – Competent user	
	B2 - Vantage
5.0 – Modest user	
4.0 – Limited user	B1 - Threshold

What scores do US schools require for academic success?

Levels/Sample Schools	Scores
Undergraduate	Range = 6.0 - 7.0
New York University	7.0
UIUC	6.5
Arizona State University	6.0
Graduate	Range = 6.0 - 8.5
Columbia University	7.0
Columbia School of Journalism	8.5
Professional schools	Range = 6.0 - 8.5
Harvard MBA	7.0
LLM	Range = 6.5 - 8.0
Duke University	7.5
Indiana University	7.0

Test Format

2 hours, 45 minutes



An issue of fairness in language testing

Variety of task types in listening and reading to address the variety of learning and test taking styles

- short-answer questions
- sentence completion
- notes, summary, diagram, flow chart, table completion
- classification
- matching
- multiple choice
- identification of writers' views, attitudes, claims



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Writing Assessment Criteria

Written performance is assessed using detailed performance descriptors on four analytical subscales for assessment.

1. Task achievement or task response
2. Cohesion and coherence
3. Lexical resource
4. Grammatical range and accuracy

Access Public Band Score Descriptors

http://www.ielts.org/PDF/UOBDS_WritingT1.pdf

http://www.ielts.org/PDF/UOBDS_WritingT2.pdf



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Speaking, 11-14 minutes



<p>Part 1 Introduction and Interview</p>	<p>Examiner introduces him/herself and confirms candidate's identity.</p> <p>Examiner interviews candidate using verbal questions based on familiar topic frames.</p>	<p>4 - 5 minutes</p>
<p>Part 2 Individual long turn</p>	<p>Examiner asks candidate to speak for 1-2 minutes on a particular topic based on written input in the form of a general instruction and content-focused prompts. Examiner asks one or two questions at the end of the long turn.</p>	<p>3 - 4 minutes (includes 1 minute preparation time)</p>
<p>Part 3 Two-way discussion</p>	<p>Examiner invites candidate to participate in discussion of more abstract nature, based on verbal questions, thematically linked to Part 2 prompt.</p>	<p>4 - 5 minutes</p>



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Your turn—Part 3 example



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Comments on Candidate I.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro

File Edit View Document Comments Forms Tools Advanced Window Help

Create Combine Collaborate Secure Sign Forms Multimedia Comment

Create a new PDF file from other types of files

1 105% Find

IELTSTM

English for International Opportunity

The test that sets the standard

Examiner Comments on Candidate I

Speaking Part 3: Hobbies

Band 7

This candidate can maintain the flow of conversation without noticeable effort, although he has a rather slow delivery, with some hesitations. He uses a range of reference markers fluently and naturally to give cohesion (*It's likely that they will; so that helps*). Overall, however, his topic development is limited and he does not extend his responses sufficiently to reach Band 8. His vocabulary is appropriate but he does not use an extensive range. Examples of good collocation and idiomatic usage (*the job ladder*) are not as frequent as they would be at higher bands, and are sometimes not well-integrated or they result in awkward expressions (*everything in excess is not good; to provide themselves; want to go higher, higher on the job ladder*). A range of structures is used, but there are not enough complex structures to raise the performance above Band 7. The level of accuracy is high, with only a few minor errors, but the candidate stays within a safety zone of relatively simple language. Candidate I has only a slight accent that has very little impact on his English pronunciation. He is able to use a wide range of phonological features to convey meaning effectively (*it's not that difficult to play*) and to make precise distinctions (*more popular vs most popular*). This is a high level candidate who seems to play safe and, in doing so, fails to produce sufficient language to be awarded a higher band.

tion

Inbox - Micro... Speaking 2 IELTS Sco... Microsoft Po... Comments o... 2:24 PM

IELTS in Eurasia – what services and support are available to you and your advisees?

Schools and stakeholders in the US – what free services are available to them?



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The IELTS Website

www.ielts.org

The screenshot shows the IELTS website homepage in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays "http://www.ielts.org/default.aspx". The page features the IELTS logo and the tagline "English for International Opportunity". A navigation menu includes "Home", "About us", "Media centre", "FAQs", and "Contact us". The main content area is titled "The world speaks IELTS" and includes a search box for "Search Test Date" with a dropdown menu listing various countries. Below this, there are four columns for "Test takers", "Institutions", "Researchers", and "Teachers", each with a "Find out more" button. The footer contains logos for IELTS Intranet, British Council, IDP, and University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. The browser's taskbar shows "Microsoft PowerPoi..." and "International Englis..." open, with the system clock at 1:54 PM.

International English Language | Home - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.ielts.org/default.aspx
Favorites | Suggested Sites | Get More Add-ons | The New York Times - Bre...
International English Language | Home

Home | About us | Media centre | FAQs | Contact us

IELTS™

English for International Opportunity

The world speaks IELTS

IELTS is the world's proven English test. Over 1.4 million candidates take the test each year to start their journeys into international education and employment.

IELTS is recognised by more than 6000 institutions across 120 countries.

You can rely on IELTS - the test that sets the standard.

Search Test Date

- France
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Hong Kong
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Korea
- Kuwait
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macao
- Macedonia
- Madagascar

Test takers

Take the world's most popular test in one of 500 locations.

Find out more

Institutions

Trust IELTS to accurately assess your candidates.

Find out more

Researchers

Access IELTS research reports or apply for a research grant.

Find out more

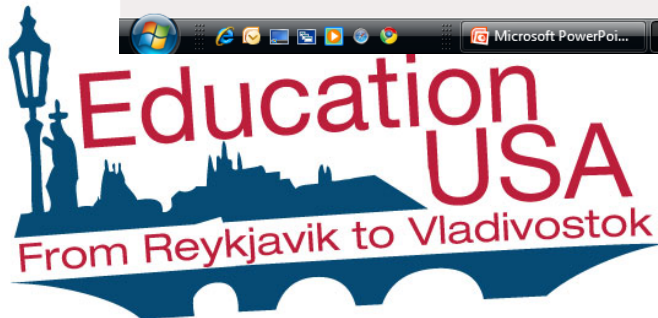
Teachers

Use these resources to understand IELTS and prepare your students.

Find out more

IELTS Intranet | BRITISH COUNCIL | idp | UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE ESOL Examinations

Internet | Protected Mode: On | 75% | 1:54 PM



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Search Results - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.ielts.org/test_centre_search/search_results.aspx?TestCentreSearchSubRegion=f7d26778-c6d6-435c-8896-3df9a0421517

Search Results

Home > Test Centre Search > Search Results

IELTS has more than 500 test centres in over 120 countries. You can search for your nearest test centre by country and territories, and city. To find out upcoming test dates and the test fee, click on More Information under each city address.

Search Test Centre

France

Number of test centres found: 6

France
Bordeaux
Bordeaux (Sub-Centre of British Council Paris)
Next Test Date: 20-Mar-2010
[More Information](#)

France
Lille
Lille (Sub-Centre of British Council Paris)
Next Test Date: 20-Mar-2010
[More Information](#)

France
Lyon
LYON - Centre Régional d'Examens Internationaux
Next Test Date: 20-Mar-2010
[More Information](#)

France
Lyon
Lyon (Sub-Centre of British Council Paris)
Next Test Date: 20-Mar-2010
[More Information](#)

France
Nantes
Nantes (Sub-Centre of British Council Paris)
Next Test Date: 20-Mar-2010
[More Information](#)

France
Paris
British Council Paris
Next Test Date: 27-Mar-2010
[More Information](#)

Internet | Protected Mode: On 75% 1:54 PM



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results - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by British Council

http://www.ielts.org/test_centre_search/results.aspx?TestCentreID=5b9f9b1-a52f-48d2-8768-e00bb6ec45f

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

results

Home About us Media centre FAQs Contact us

IELTS™
English for International Opportunity

Test takers Institutions Researchers Teachers

Home > Test Centre Search > results

Search Test Centre

Bordeaux (Sub-Centre of British Council Paris)

Address:
Bordeaux

Tel: 33 1 49 55 73 62
Fax: 33 1 47 05 72 30
Email: ielts@britishcouncil.fr
Web: <http://www.britishcouncil.fr>

Test Fee: 175 Euros

Date	Academic	General Training (GT)
20-Mar-2010	●	●
17-Apr-2010	●	●
15-May-2010	●	●
19-Jun-2010	●	●
10-Jul-2010	●	●

This city is a test venue only – all registrations are centralised in the British Council offices in Paris. For more information on the IELTS test dates for France, the test fee and the registration process, please visit the [British Council website](#).

We can help you prepare for the IELTS test through one of our three 'face-to-face' preparation courses in Paris, with self-study books or via online resources. Please visit our website for further details.

Candidate information

Application Form

Practice Materials (order from UK)

Practice Materials (order from Australia)

start

Microsoft Office... English general ke... US bound candida... EduUSA2010 Pragu... EduUSA2010 Pragu... IELTS breakfast S... IELTS Day Zurich l... Home - Microsoft I... results - Microsoft... FR

Internet 100%

18:11

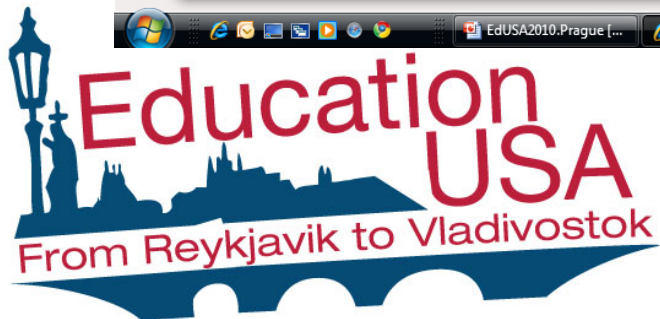


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Support for test takers and teachers

Links to free preparation materials, resources

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the IELTS Teachers website. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.ielts.org/teachers.aspx>. The page features a navigation menu with tabs for 'Test takers', 'Institutions', 'Researchers', and 'Teachers'. The 'Teachers' tab is selected, and the page content includes a header 'Home > Teachers' and a main section titled 'Teachers'. This section contains a paragraph of introductory text and a grid of resource links: 'Resources', 'Academic Reading', 'Academic Writing', 'General Training Reading', 'General Training Writing', 'Listening', 'Speaking', 'Pretesting', and 'Researchers'. To the right of the grid are four download buttons: 'IELTS Scores Explained', 'Analysis of test data', 'New Research Reports', and 'IELTS Masters Award'. The footer of the page displays logos for the British Council, IDP Education, and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including 'EdUSA2010.Prague', 'IELTS Teachers - Wi...', and 'Teaching Resources...', along with the system clock showing 11:09 PM.



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IELTS - Exams - British Council - Czech Republic - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by British Council

http://www.britishcouncil.org/czechrepublic-exams-ielts.htm


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IELTS - Exams - British Council - Czech Republic

Text only Print this page E-mail this page Add to favourites Google Custom Search GC

BRITISH COUNCIL Czech Republic

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IELTS
English for International Opportunity

Opening doors, creating opportunities

Do you want to study or live abroad? Do you need to prove your level of English to a potential employer? Do you need to raise your standard in English? Then IELTS is for you!

Click on the picture to access the online registration page. Do not use any diacritics!

Register with us and start using our free online materials **Road to IELTS**.

Register with us and start using our free online materials Road to IELTS

Free online preparation

ROAD TO IELTS

EXAMS

- NEWS
- TYPES OF EXAMS
- EXAMINATION CENTRES
- DATES, FEES, REGISTRATION
- RESULTS AND CERTIFICATES
- RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES
- SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS
- LOYALTY PROGRAMMES
- PREPARATION MATERIALS
- EXAM GIFT VOUCHER
- EXAM BOARDS WE WORK WITH
- FAQS

WHERE IS IELTS RECOGNISED?

IELTS is an internationally recognised testing system which is widely recognised by universities in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. IELTS assesses the ability to study or train in English. IELTS is managed by the **University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations**, the British Council and **IDP Education Australia**.

IMPORTANT NEWS!

From 1 January 2010 candidates registering must not wear glasses in the photographs they submit for IELTS registration. This has been decided in line with advice from government immigration agencies of Great Britain.

DOING IELTS OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME TO...

Click here to find out more from the IELTS certificate holders.

WHAT TYPE OF IELTS SHOULD YOU TAKE?

You can take either the Academic or General Training Reading and

Trusted sites 100%

Support for test takers

- Online *Road to IELTS* FREE preparation materials
- Self-study materials
- Face-to-face preparation courses
- Online resources
- Teacher workshops
- Test day procedures
- Local delivery (questions/currency/payment methods)
- Off-site testing available



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Services for receiving organizations

Test Report For Verification Service (TRFVS) Electronic score downloads

Centre Number:	10294
Centre Name:	International House, London
Candidate Number:	001234
Candidate ID:	A1234
Family Name:	Moulding
First Name:	Carly
Date of Birth:	1980-01-01
Sex (M/F):	F
Repeating IELTS:	N
Previous Test Date:	
Previous Test Centre:	



Recognizing institutions can request TRFVS access and receive secure pin access codes for verified key staff

Test Results	Overall Band 6.5 Band Scores Explained
Date of Examination:	2007-08-16
TRF Number:	0710001234SAMJ294A
Listening	Band 7.5
Reading	Band 5.5
Writing	Band 6.5
Speaking	Band 6.5

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Support and services for Education USA advisers

- Center contact list (also see www.ielts.org)
- Hard copy information for test takers
- Briefing sessions for advisors and staff
- IELTS information and web link on Education USA sites
- IELTS presentations (IROs/students)



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Very Fast FAQs

How often is the test given?

- IELTS is offered up to 4 times per month (see website)
- Saturday and Thursday test dates available globally

How much does the test cost?

- Fees are set locally by country to reflect the local economy and payable in local currency

Where can test takers find information on test centers and dates?

- Search for test centers on www.ielts.org
- Test center information includes email, phone and contact information



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IELTS puts people first ...

and we want to hear from you whenever
you have a question or concern

Beryl E. Meiron

IELTS International, Executive Director

E-mail: bmeiron@ieltsintl.org

Helga Stellmacher

IELTS Development Manager, Europe

E-mail: helga.stellmacher@britishcouncil.fr

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