

## Frequently Asked Questions (Test Takers)

### **Please note:**

Those who are applying for a Tier 4 student visa to a Highly Trusted Sponsor (HTS)/ Tier 4 sponsor, to study a bachelor or postgraduate degree are required to meet the English language level set by the institution. All British universities and colleges accept IELTS results. This means you can apply with an IELTS result from any of the 1,000 IELTS test locations worldwide unless your institution has additional requirements\*. See [www.takeielts.org](http://www.takeielts.org) for a list of test locations.

Official list of British Universities and Colleges with Highly Trusted Sponsor Status/TIER 4 register of sponsor:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students>

## **IELTS used for UK Visas and Immigration**

### **Which IELTS test do I need if I am applying for a UK visa?**

If you are applying for a UK visa in the UK, there is an IELTS test for you.

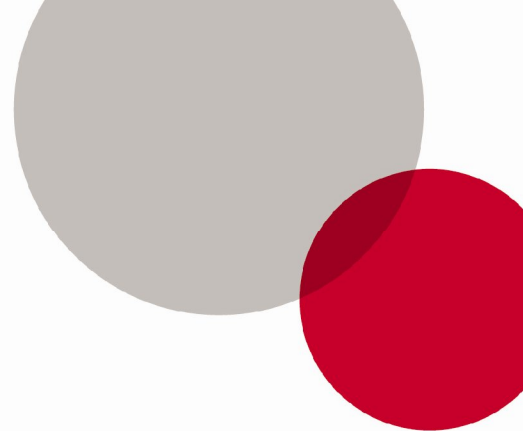
For visa applications to the UK, you may need to have an English language qualification.

In particular, 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 (often referred to as SELT tests). IELTS and IELTS Life Skills are on this list.

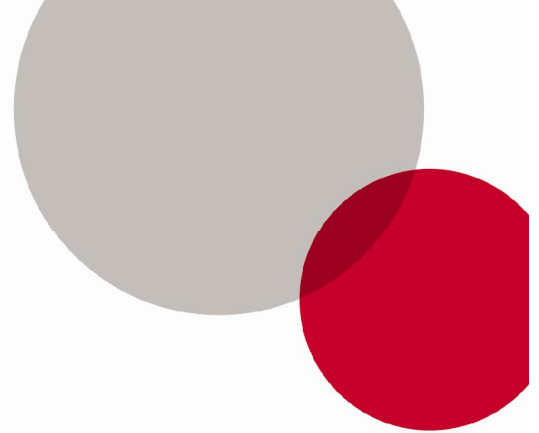
To find out whether you need to take an approved SELT test, what level you need to achieve, and which test you can use, you should contact UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), or the British Embassy or High Commission in your country. There is also a wealth of information on UKVI's website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-for-uk-visa-approved-english-language-tests>

As a guide, you can use the following table:

Visa description	CEFR level required	Skills	IELTS test and score required
Tier 1 (General) visa	C1	Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening	IELTS - 7.0 overall, and for each of the four skills
Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent)	B1	Reading, Writing	IELTS - 4.0 overall,



visa		Speaking, and Listening	and for each of the four skills
Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa	B1	Reading, Writing Speaking, and Listening	IELTS - 4.0 overall, and for each of the four skills
Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa	B1	Reading, Writing Speaking, and Listening	IELTS - 4.0 overall, and for each of the four skills
Tier 2 (General) visa	B1	Reading, Writing Speaking, and Listening	IELTS - 4.0 overall, and for each of the four skills
Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa	A1	Reading, Writing Speaking, and Listening	IELTS - 4.0 <sup>1</sup> overall, and for each of the four skills
Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa	B2	Reading, Writing Speaking, and Listening	IELTS - 5.5 overall, and for each of the four skills
Tier 4 (General) student visa - below degree level *only when required	B1	Reading, Writing Speaking, and Listening	IELTS - 4.0 overall, and for each of the four skills
Tier 4 (General) student visa - degree level and above *only when required	B2	Reading, Writing Speaking, and Listening	IELTS - 5.5 overall, and for each of the four skills
Family of a settled person visa	A1	Speaking and Listening	IELTS Life Skills at A1 – Pass



Indefinite leave to remain (to settle) or citizenship <sup>2</sup>	B1	Speaking and Listening	IELTS Life Skills at B1 – Pass
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<sup>1</sup> IELTS is accepted by UKVI at band scores 4.0 and above, equivalent to CEFR level B1.

<sup>2</sup> UKVI will accept a test on the SELT list or an Ofqual regulated test for this immigration category. The test must cover Speaking and Listening at B1 level.

<sup>3</sup> Scores mentioned above for TIER 4 categories are the requirement of UKVI. Universities and colleges may require a higher band score for the course that you are applying for. Please check with them on the band score requirement for your course.

Please note that these changes do not affect the use of IELTS by people from the European Union, European Economic Area, Switzerland and 'majority English speaking countries' as defined by the UK Home Office (<https://www.gov.uk/english-language>).

### Can I use any IELTS test result for UK visa application?

If you wish to use an IELTS or IELTS Life Skills test result as part of your application for UK visa purposes (apart from some types of student visa), you may need to take the test at an IELTS test centre which is specifically authorised by UK Visas and Immigration for this purpose, and the test must be taken under conditions specified by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

You will receive an IELTS – or IELTS Life Skills – Test Report Form which shows that you have taken your test to meet the UKVI requirements.

### Where can I take an IELTS or IELTS Life Skills test for a UK visa application?

The tests are available throughout the world, in locations specified by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). These IELTS test centres will be announced here shortly

### When can I take an IELTS or IELTS Life Skills for a UK visa application?

We will be announcing dates for registration and testing here shortly.

### How often is an IELTS or IELTS Life Skills test available?

For IELTS and IELTS Life Skills, test dates will be available within 28 days of booking your test.

### How often can I re-take IELTS or IELTS Life Skills?

There are no restrictions on retaking IELTS. You can register for a test as soon as you feel you are ready to do so.

Candidates who have previously taken the IELTS Life Skills test and have passed are not allowed to re-take the test at the same level within two years. E.g: a candidate who has taken an IELTS Life Skills A1 test and has passed cannot take another Life Skills A1 test within two

years. Similarly a candidate who has taken an IELTS Life Skills B1 test and has passed cannot take another Life Skills B1 test within two years.

**How is my IELTS test different if I take it for UK visa purposes?**

The IELTS test for UK visa purposes is designed to meet certain administrative requirements that are only specified by 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. The actual test taken is the same – same content, examiners, format, level of difficulty, scoring and so on.

**If I take an IELTS test for UK visa purposes, can I use my result in other countries / for other purposes?**

Yes. IELTS test results are accepted by more than 9,000 organisations worldwide, including universities, colleges, governments and employers.

**I've already taken IELTS. Can I still use my result to apply to UK Visas and Immigration?**

If you take IELTS on or before 5 April 2015 you should be able to use it for your application up to 5 November 2015, but you must confirm this with UKVI.

From 6 April 2015 you must take the test at an IELTS test centre authorised to run IELTS tests for UK visa and immigration purposes and you must confirm at the time of registration that you wish to use your test for these purposes

## **IELTS Life Skills**

### **What is IELTS Life Skills? What is it for?**

IELTS Life Skills is a test of Speaking and Listening, available at CEFR Level A1 and CEFR Level B1. It is designed to meet the requirements of UK Visas and Immigration for certain visa categories.

### **When and where can I take an IELTS Life Skills test?**

We will be announcing dates for registration and testing here shortly.

IELTS Life Skills tests are available throughout the world, in locations specified by UK Visas and Immigration. The IELTS Life Skills test centres will also be announced here shortly.

To find out whether you need to take an approved test, and what level you need to achieve, please visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for more information.

### **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.

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

The new test has been designed to meet specific immigration requirements for which applicants only need to demonstrate speaking and listening skills.

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

IELTS Life Skills at CEFR Level A1 takes 16-18 minutes and Level B1 is 22 minutes.

### **Is there any break between Speaking and Listening?**

No. You will be assessed on your Speaking and Listening skills at the same time.

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

A certificated IELTS Examiner will assess your performance throughout the Listening and Speaking test based on the following criteria:

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

### **How can I prepare for the IELTS Life Skills test?**

Free test samples will be available here shortly.

**How many copies of IELTS Life Skills Test Report Form will I get?**

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

**How soon will I get my IELTS Life Skills results?**

Test results are normally available within 7 days of your test.

**How often is an IELTS or IELTS Life Skills test available?**

For IELTS and IELTS Life Skills, test dates will be available within 28 days of booking your test.

**How often can I re-take IELTS or IELTS Life Skills?**

There are no restrictions on retaking IELTS. You can register for a test as soon as you feel you are ready to do so.

Candidates who have previously taken the IELTS Life Skills test and have passed are not allowed to re-take the test at the same level within two years. E.g: a candidate who has taken an IELTS Life Skills A1 test and has passed cannot take another Life Skills A1 test within two years. Similarly a candidate who has taken an IELTS Life Skills B1 test and has passed cannot take another Life Skills B1 test within two years.