



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

EVIDENCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY

The following table demonstrates what evidence is required in place of IELTS results. Any section with a “✓” indicates that an IELTS result is generally not required for that level of English language ability. Any circumstance which is not referred to in the table, or has an “X” next to it, indicates that an IELTS result is required as evidence of English language ability.

For example, an applicant who holds a degree, diploma or trade qualification from an academic institution as a result of 2 years full time study where all instruction has been conducted in English. would generally not have to provide IELTS to demonstrate that they had Functional English, however, they would have to provide IELTS to demonstrate that they had Vocational or Competent English.

IELTS Testing ‘not necessary’	Level of English language ability		
	Functional	Vocational	Competent
<i>Exemption – Circumstances</i>			
Applicant has passed the OET in relation to their nominated skilled occupation	✓	✓	✓
Applicant is a ‘native English speaker’*	✓	✓	✓
Applicant sat an IELTS test more than 12 months but less than 2 years before applying for their visa and attained the required level of English ability, but the decision maker is satisfied that the applicant’s English language ability has not deteriorated since sitting this test as they have been working full-time in an English speaking country.	✓	✓	✓
Applicant holds NAATI accreditation as an interpreter, conference interpreter or conference interpreter (Senior)	✓	✓	✓
It is not reasonably practicable for an applicant to undertake an IELTS or OET examination and the applicant has undertaken a TOEFL examination in the 12 months before applying for their visa and has attained a test score that equates to an applicable score on an IELTS examination	✓	✓	✓
Applicant holds a degree, diploma or trade qualification from an academic institution as a result of 2 years full time study where all instruction has been conducted in English.	✓	X	X
Applicant has worked in an English speaking country for 2 years or more	✓	X	X

*A 'native English speaker' is a person whose first spoken language is English and is the holder of a passport from the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, the United States of America and the Republic of Ireland.

Notwithstanding the policy exemptions referred to above and in the table, under legislation it is still open to a case officer assessing an application to request an applicant to undertake an IELTS test if they have doubts about an applicant's English language ability or the test results provided.

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH AND THE 2ND VAC (ENGLISH) PAYMENT

If you are required to provide evidence of Functional English and you think you have Functional English, then it is in your interests to provide evidence of this. If the evidence shows that you have functional English, then you will not be required to pay the 2nd VAC. However, if you cannot provide evidence that you have functional English, then you will have to pay the 2nd VAC before you can be granted a visa.

Please note, if a person has been asked to demonstrate functional English, that person may choose to pay the appropriate 2nd Visa Application Charge (VAC) (English).

DO NOT SEND MONEY UNLESS SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO DO SO

The amount depends on the date the application was received by this office, ie –
AUD\$2,690 for applications received from 1 July 2005
AUD\$2,630 for applications received from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005
AUD\$2,560 for applications received from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004
AUD\$2,485 for applications received from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003

If paying the 2nd VAC (English), you will be advised, by letter, and be asked to make payment only toward the end of application processing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information regarding evidence of English language ability and IELTS testing can be obtained from our website:

http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/rqmnts_doc/br_english_2.htm