

Changes to Secure English Language Test Providers

UK Visas and Immigration is making changes to the Secure English Language Tests (SELT) required by some visa customers:

- IELTS SELT Consortium is now the only approved SELT (Secure English Language Test) provider for visa applicants outside the UK.
- IELTS tests for visa purposes must be taken at an authorised SELT centre.

Applicants who need to provide a SELT to demonstrate their English language ability can find their closest test centre [here](#). **Not all IELTS test centres are approved to offer SELT tests**, therefore it is important that applicants book the correct tests.

Please note that Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will still be able to choose their own method of testing international students' English language ability for students studying at degree level or above. International students coming to study a degree at a UK university are therefore not affected by this change, unless their HEI requests that they provide a SELT.

Changes came into effect on 6 April 2015. Transitional arrangements are in place and applicants with SELTs taken on or before 5 April 2015 will be able to use these alongside their immigration application until 5 November 2015. More information on the IELTS tests is available at <http://www.ielts.org/>

FAQ's

WHICH VISA ROUTES REQUIRE SELT TESTS?

- Tier 1 (Entrepreneur)
- Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur)
- Tier 2 (General)
- Tier 2 (Minister of Religion)
- Tier 2 (Sportsperson)
- Family routes - application for leave to enter under Appendix FM or Appendix Armed Forces as a partner of a British citizen, person settled in the UK or member of HM forces

For Tier 4, the SELT requirement applies where:

- The student is not sponsored by an HEI
- The student is sponsored by an HEI but is studying a course below degree level.

Please note, if you are a national of a majority English-speaking country or hold a degree qualification which was taught in English you do not need a SELT.

Tier 5 doesn't have an English language requirement so does not need a SELT.

DO THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS APPLY TO APPLICATIONS FOR SETTLEMENT OR CITIZENSHIP?

Yes. The new SELT arrangements will apply to those taking SELT tests for the purposes of settlement and citizenship, as well as applications for entry clearance and leave to remain.

I AM GOING TO STUDY A DEGREE WITH A HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION AND THEY HAVE ASKED ME TO PROVIDE AN IELTS CERTIFICATE. DOES IT NEED TO BE FROM AN APPROVED IELTS SELT CENTRE OR CAN I SIT THE IELTS TEST AT ANY IELTS CENTRE?

These changes do not affect you if you are studying at degree level or higher at a Higher Education Institution (HEI). HEIs currently choose their own method of testing students' English language ability and this will not change.

It is up to your HEI to determine the evidence that they wish to see in line with the guidance. You should clarify with your institution whether they require an IELTS test or specifically, an IELTS SELT.