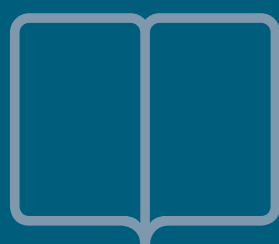


Cambridge English

Exams for higher education

Selecting students for foundation,
undergraduate and postgraduate courses



www.cambridgeenglish.org



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
Language Assessment
Part of the University of Cambridge

About Cambridge English

Cambridge English Language Assessment is part of the University of Cambridge.

We develop and produce the most valuable range of qualifications for learners and teachers of English in the world.

Over 4 million people take Cambridge English exams each year in more than 130 countries.

Around the world over 15,000 universities, businesses, institutions, governments and organisations accept our qualifications, including some of the world's leading universities and colleges.

Here's a selection



UK



US



US



Australia



Australia



Australia



Canada



Hong Kong

Our exams are also accepted by immigration departments and leading global businesses, including:

- UK Home Office
- Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)
- Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS)
- KPMG
- Nestlé
- Procter & Gamble
- Accenture
- Dell
- Ernst & Young



See a full list of organisations using our exams at www.cambridgeenglish.org/recognition



“The University of Idaho stands behind the strict standards and integrity that Cambridge English administers in their exams, and understands that Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) students are of a higher caliber and more prepared to face the challenges and opportunities that exist when studying on a US campus.”

Shawn Greenfield

Interim Director

International Marketing and Recruitment, University of Idaho

Cambridge English exams for higher education

Cambridge English offers a range of level-based English language exams.

Our exams are aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, or CEFR* – the international standard for describing language ability – and each is targeted at a different level.

We recommend the following exams for successful study in English:

CEFR
C2

Postgraduate

Cambridge English: Proficiency

- Our highest level exam, indicating a level of English ability approaching that of a sophisticated native speaker.
- Targeted at **Level C2** of the CEFR.

See more about this exam on pages 6–7.

CEFR
C1

Undergraduate & postgraduate

Cambridge English: Advanced

- Gives students the English skills needed for academic success.
- Targeted at **Level C1** of the CEFR.

See more about this exam on pages 8–9.

CEFR
B2

Foundation/pre-sessional

Cambridge English: First

- Gives students the practical English skills they need for foundation programmes and technical and vocational courses.
- Targeted at **Level B2** of the CEFR.

See more about this exam on pages 10–11.

* Further information about the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) can be found on our website at: www.cambridgeenglish.org/cefr

Why use our exams?

Cambridge English: First, Advanced and Proficiency are designed for use by further and higher education institutions for a variety of purposes.

For admission requirements

Be sure of students' English language skills

Choose exams for your admission requirements that are more than a snapshot of a student's level of English. Our exams are in-depth assessments and preparing for them helps students to improve their English. They provide a reliable indicator of language ability, reducing the risk that students' English does not match expectations. Cambridge English exams test all four language skills – Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking – as well as covering use of grammar and vocabulary.

Rely on secure and trusted exams

Backed by over 100 years of research, our exams are trusted as secure English language tests by governments worldwide. Our authorised exam centres follow a detailed code of practice. Exam-day photographs are taken of all candidates. These can be viewed, along with candidate results, on our free online Results Verification Service.

Specify one score across our exams

From 2015, the Cambridge English Scale will be used for reporting results across Cambridge English exams. It will make it easy for you to set your entrance requirements and give you more precise information about each skill.

Attract more high-quality applicants to your institution

Accept Cambridge English exams as part of your admissions criteria and you will be able to select from hundreds of thousands of students from around the world.

Accepted for student visa applications

Cambridge English exams are accepted for student visa applications around the world, including in Australia, the UK and Ireland. Choosing our exams for your admission requirements often means that students need only take one English language test.

For exit-level measurement

Validate students' language learning

Offer students an independent assessment of their language skills and give them a qualification that is internationally accepted. Our exams can also open doors to further study opportunities.

Improve your students' employability

Make sure your students leave with a valuable qualification that is trusted by some of the world's top employers. Preparing for the exams helps them to develop the English language skills they need for the workplace.

For placing your students in an appropriate English class

The *Cambridge English Placement Test* is a fast, accurate and cost-effective way to help you:

- find out what level of English your students already have
- decide which language class is the most appropriate for them
- make informed decisions about which Cambridge English exam they should aim for.



The Cambridge English Placement Test is on demand, adaptive and takes just 30 minutes. Find out more at www.cambridgeenglish.org/placement

Robust approach to security and quality management

Exam quality, integrity and security are critical to educational institutions. Our robust and comprehensive approach covers all areas – from test development, test delivery and results processing, through to post-examination review and evaluation.

All the development and production processes of the exam, as well as the post-test marking and administration, are managed and controlled centrally in Cambridge. This means you can trust the results as a valid and accurate reflection of a candidate's ability.

Security, integrity and fraud protection measures

- Exam papers are handled under secure conditions at all times – from preparation to printing to despatch.
- All our authorised exam centres follow a detailed code of practice which ensures the highest standards of security throughout the testing process, from registration to the recording of results.
- Photographs of all candidates are taken on the day of the exam. These can be viewed by institutions through our online Results Verification Service.
- No marking is done by the exam centre. Speaking is marked locally by fully trained and certificated Speaking Examiners at the test venue, while Writing scripts are anonymised and allocated to examiners at random to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Sophisticated results analysis is carried out after each test session prior to release of results to identify unusual patterns of scores or responses.

Quality management

Our systems and processes for designing, developing and delivering examinations are independently certified as meeting ISO 9001:2008 for quality management.

For more on our rigorous approach to quality management, you can download the publication, *Principles of Good Practice: Quality management and validation in language assessment* from www.cambridgeenglish.org/principles

Cambridge English: First (FCE)

Cambridge English: First is an upper-intermediate level qualification. It proves candidates can use everyday written and spoken English for work or study purposes.

The exam gives students the practical language skills they need to study on **foundation, pathway, or pre-sessional programmes**, and on **courses taught in the medium of English**.

What can students with Cambridge English: First do?

- **Understand the main ideas** of complex pieces of writing.
- **Keep up a conversation** on a fairly wide range of topics, expressing opinions and presenting arguments.
- **Produce clear, detailed writing**, expressing opinions and explaining the advantages and disadvantages of different points of view.
- **Make simple notes** for essay or revision purposes, capturing the most important points.
- **Scan** texts for relevant information.

What level is Cambridge English: First?

Cambridge English: First is targeted at CEFR Level B2 (160–179). The following scores are used to report results:

Cambridge English Scale scores	Grade/CEFR	CEFR level
180–190	Grade A	C1
173–179	Grade B	B2
160–172	Grade C	B2
140–159	Level B1	B1

Scores are also reported between 122 and 139, although candidates do not receive a certificate.

Who accepts Cambridge English: First?

Cambridge English: First is accepted around the world and offers students opportunities for employment, further study and travel.

These are just a few of the leading organisations that accept *Cambridge English: First*:

- University of Warwick
- Herriot Watt University
- University of Amsterdam
- City University of Hong Kong
- Deloitte
- Marks & Spencer
- HSBC
- KPMG

The exam is also accepted by the UK Home Office and the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) for visa applications.







“My university recommended I take Cambridge English: First. Preparing for the exam gave me the confidence and language skills to travel internationally, and get a job at a prestigious biopharmaceutical laboratory.”

Anais Legent

Research Associate at Kymab Ltd,
and *Cambridge English: First* certificate holder

What's in the exam?

Cambridge English: First is made up of four papers developed to test different aspects of candidates' English skills.

Paper	Content	Marks %	Shows students can...
 Reading and Use of English (1 hour 15 minutes)	7 parts/52 questions	40	understand the main ideas in different types of text, such as fiction, newspapers and magazines. Candidates also must demonstrate how well they can control grammar and vocabulary.
 Writing (1 hour 20 minutes)	2 parts	20	produce two different pieces of writing, including a compulsory essay.
 Listening (about 40 minutes)	4 parts/30 questions	20	follow and understand a range of spoken materials, such as news programmes, presentations and everyday conversations.
 Speaking (14 minutes per pair of candidates)	4 parts	20	communicate effectively in face-to-face situations.



Face-to-face Speaking test

Candidates take their test with two examiners and at least one other candidate.

This gives them the opportunity to show they can:

- use their spoken language skills in a range of contexts
- express their own opinion and present arguments.

The paired format means candidates experience a more authentic exercise in communication, which gives a more reliable measure of their ability to use English.



Format

The exam is available as both a paper-based or computer-based exam.



Availability

There are more than 25 exam dates a year, with opportunities to take the exam at least once a month.



Sample papers and further information

Download sample papers and find out more about the exam at www.cambridgeenglish.org/first

Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)

Cambridge English: Advanced is a **focused academic English** exam which gives students the English skills they need to succeed at college or university on **undergraduate** and **postgraduate** programmes.

It offers a rigorous assessment of a student's ability to communicate at an advanced level in English for academic and professional purposes.

What can students with Cambridge English: Advanced do?

- **Contribute effectively to meetings and seminars** within their own area of work or keep up a casual conversation with a good degree of fluency, coping with abstract expressions.
- **Read quickly enough to cope with an academic course**, and take reasonably accurate notes in meetings or write a piece of work which shows an ability to communicate.
- **Make critical remarks/express disagreement** without causing offence.
- **Scan texts for relevant information**, and grasp the main topic of a text.
- **Write a piece of work** whose message can be followed throughout.

What level is Cambridge English: Advanced?

Cambridge English: Advanced is targeted at CEFR Level C1 (180-199). The following scores are used to report results:

Cambridge English Scale scores	Grade/CEFR	CEFR level
200-210	Grade A	C2
193-199	Grade B	C1
180-192	Grade C	C1
160-179	Level B2	B2

Scores are also reported between 142 and 159, although candidates do not receive a certificate.

Who accepts Cambridge English: Advanced?

Cambridge English: Advanced is accepted around the world by over 4,000 organisations, institutions, governments and employers.

These are just a few of the leading organisations that accept *Cambridge English: Advanced*:

- University of Manchester
- University College London
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- University of Toronto
- University of Thompson Rivers
- Cleveland State University
- Texas Tech University
- University of Melbourne
- Dell
- Deloitte
- Ernst & Young
- HSBC

The exam is also accepted in the UK, Ireland and Australia for student visa applications.



"Students invest a substantial amount of time and effort preparing for CAE. This improves their language proficiency and leads to broad, detailed understanding of English, giving them a strong foundation to manage the tasks they face during their university studies."





Alison Standing

Language Coordinator

London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)

What's in the exam?

Cambridge English: Advanced is made up of four papers developed to test different aspects of candidates' English skills.

Paper	Content	Marks %	Shows students can...
 Reading and Use of English (1 hour 30 minutes)	8 parts/56 questions	40	deal confidently with various texts and grasp the main topic of text. This paper also requires candidates to demonstrate their control of grammar and vocabulary.
 Writing (1 hour 30 minutes)	2 parts	20	produce two different pieces of writing including a compulsory academic essay.
 Listening (about 40 minutes)	4 parts/30 questions	20	follow and understand a range of spoken materials - such as lectures, interviews, discussions, presentations and everyday conversations.
 Speaking (15 minutes per pair of candidates)	4 parts	20	communicate effectively in face-to-face situations such as seminars or everyday conversations.



Face-to-face Speaking test

Candidates take their test with two examiners and at least one other candidate.

This gives them the opportunity to show they can:

- use their spoken language skills effectively in a range of contexts
- exchange information, express and justify their opinions, and agree or disagree with one another.

The paired format means candidates experience a more authentic exercise in communication, which gives a more reliable measure of their ability to use English.



Format

The exam is available as both a paper-based or computer-based exam.



Availability

There are more than 39 exam dates a year, with opportunities to take the exam at least twice a month.



Sample papers and further information

Download sample papers and find out more about the exam at www.cambridgeenglish.org/advanced

Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)

Cambridge English: Proficiency is our most advanced qualification. It proves students have the English skills to study demanding subjects at the highest level, including **postgraduate** and **PhD programmes**.

It shows that students have mastered English to an exceptional level and can communicate with **fluency** and **sophistication** similar to the level of a native English speaker.

It offers a rigorous assessment of a student's ability to communicate at an advanced level in English for academic and professional purposes.

What can students with Cambridge English: Proficiency do?

- **Talk about** complex or sensitive issues, and deal confidently with difficult questions.
- **Understand** colloquial asides and cultural allusions.
- **Write confidently** on any given topic.
- **Make accurate and complete notes** during a lecture, seminar or tutorial.
- **Negotiate and persuade** effectively at senior management level in international business settings.

What level is Cambridge English: Proficiency?

Cambridge English: Proficiency is targeted at CEFR Level C2 (200+). The following scores are used to report results:

Cambridge English Scale scores	Grade/CEFR	CEFR level
220–230	Grade A	C2
213–219	Grade B	C2
200–212	Grade C	C2
180–199	Level C1	C1

Scores are also reported between 162 and 179, although candidates do not receive a certificate.

Who accepts Cambridge English: Proficiency?

Cambridge English: Proficiency is recognised around the world and enhances a student's prospects for postgraduate study and employment at the highest levels.

These are just a few of the leading organisations that accept *Cambridge English: Proficiency*:

- University of Cambridge
- University of Oxford
- University of Queensland
- University of British Columbia
- University of New Mexico
- University of Idaho
- Coca-Cola
- Vodafone
- Pilsner Urquell
- Nestlé

The exam is also accepted by the UK Home Office for visa applications and by INIS in Ireland.







“Cambridge English: Proficiency helped me get into my dream drama school and gave me the confidence to perform in English in front of thousands of people.”

Alberto Prandini

Actor, director and *Cambridge English: Proficiency* certificate holder

What's in the exam?

Cambridge English: Proficiency is made up of four papers developed to test different aspects of candidates' English skills.

Paper	Content	Marks %	Shows students can...
 Reading and Use of English (1 hour 30 minutes)	7 parts/53 questions	40	understand various documents, including the finer points of complex texts. Students are also expected to show their control of grammar and use of vocabulary.
 Writing (1 hour 30 minutes)	2 parts	20	write on any subject with good expression and accuracy. The paper includes a compulsory essay.
 Listening (about 40 minutes)	4 parts/30 questions	20	understand a range of spoken materials, such as lectures, speeches and interviews.
 Speaking (16 minutes per pair of candidates)	3 parts	20	express themselves confidently and effectively in a range of situations.



Face-to-face Speaking test

Candidates take their test with two examiners and at least one other candidate.

This gives them the opportunity to show they can:

- use their spoken language skills effectively in a range of contexts
- exchange ideas, express and justify opinions, make suggestions, speculate, evaluate and reach a decision through negotiation.

The paired format means candidates experience a more authentic exercise in communication, which gives a more reliable measure of their ability to use English.



Format

The exam is available as both a paper-based or computer-based exam.



Availability

There are 10 exam dates a year.



Sample papers and further information

Download sample papers and find out more about the exam at www.cambridgeenglish.org/proficiency

How are the exam results reported?

The Cambridge English Scale is a range of scores used to report results for Cambridge English exams.

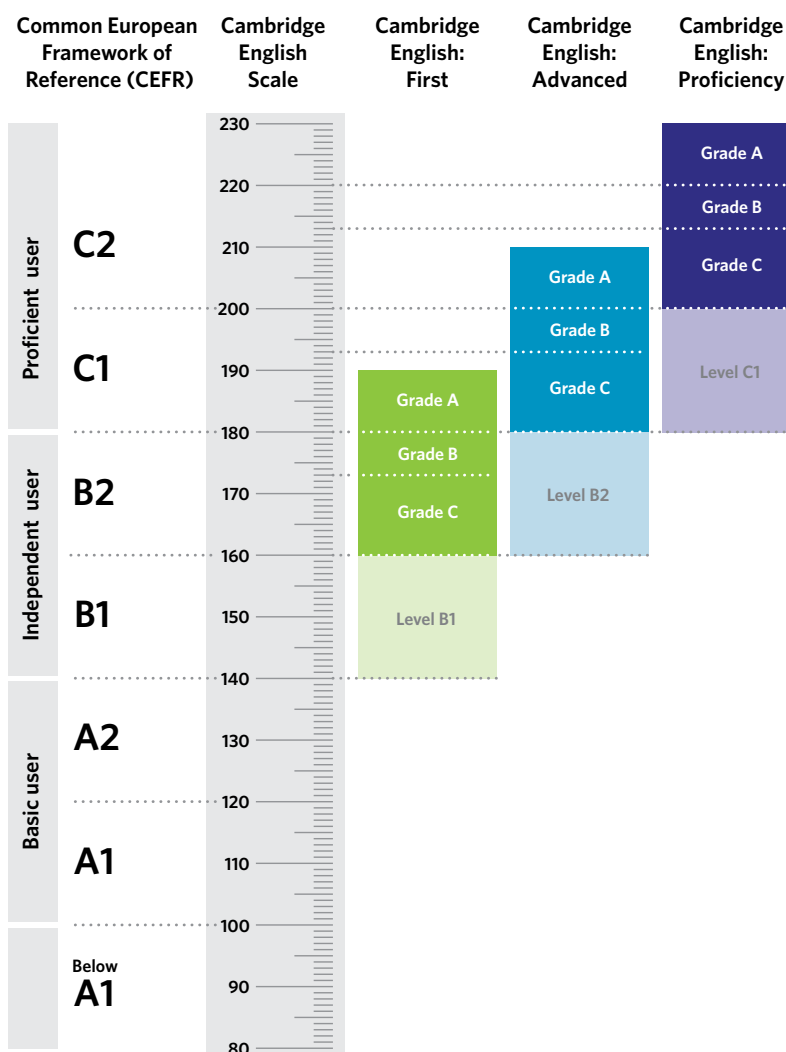
From January 2015, results for *Cambridge English: First, Advanced and Proficiency* will be reported on the **Cambridge English Scale**.

It covers a wide range of language ability and is designed to complement the Common European Framework for Languages – the **CEFR**.

Candidates receive a score for each skill (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) plus Use of English. They also get an overall score on the scale for the exam.

Because the results for all our exams are reported using the same scale, it makes it easier to:

- **understand** candidates' results
- **compare** Cambridge English exams
- **describe** the level of language skills needed for **your admissions requirements**.



The Cambridge English Scale has been built on result-reporting methodologies which we have developed over many decades of research, using data from millions of test takers.

It is fully aligned with the CEFR, but where the CEFR is a broad reference scale of language proficiency, the Cambridge English Scale brings the comparability so often needed for practical results reporting purposes such as stating requirements for admissions for higher education or employment.

Scores on the Cambridge English Scale will replace the **standardised score** and **candidate profile** reported in pre-2015 results but candidates will continue to receive a CEFR level and grade.



To see more about how exam results were reported before January 2015, visit www.cambridgeenglish.org/scale-institutions

What do Cambridge English results look like?

The Statement of Results

All candidates receive a **Statement of Results**. This is the document you should use when checking candidate results.

The Statement of Results gives you the candidate's:

- overall score on the Cambridge English Scale
- scores on the Cambridge English Scale for each of the four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and Use of English.

Candidates also receive a CEFR level and grade.

You can view a candidate's Statement of Results – along with a test-day photo – on our secure online Results Verification Service website, which is freely accessible to all accepting institutions. For more details see page 15.


1 Overall score

This is the overall Cambridge English Scale score for the whole exam. It is the average of the five individual scores a candidate receives for the four skills and Use of English.

The overall score is the most important piece of information for recognising institutions when setting requirements to ensure that you ask for the exact level of English you need.

2 Individual scores

Candidates receive a Cambridge English Scale score for each of the four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and Use of English. With these individual scores it is easy for you to specify the level of English you need in a particular skill.



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Reference No.
15BGB9615003
To be quoted on all Correspondence

First Certificate in English

Statement of Results

Candidate name
An Example

Place of entry
Cambridge

Session
November (F2) 2015

Result	Overall Score	CEFR Level
Pass at Grade C	172 1	B2

CEFR Level	Cambridge English Scale	Certificated Results	Reading	Use of English	Writing	Listening	Speaking
C1	190	Grade A					
	180	Grade B		179			179
B2	170	Grade C	171			168	
	160				162		
B1	150	Level B1			2		
	140						
	130						

The First Certificate in English (FCE) is an examination targeted at Level B2 in the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference.

Candidates achieving Grade A (between 180 and 190 on the Cambridge English Scale) receive the First Certificate in English stating that they have demonstrated ability at Level C1. Candidates achieving Grade B or Grade C (between 160 and 179 on the Cambridge English Scale) receive the First Certificate in English at Level B2.

Candidates whose performance is below Level B2, but falls within Level B1 (between 140 and 159 on the Cambridge English Scale), receive a Cambridge English certificate stating that they have demonstrated ability at Level B1.

Cambridge English Language Assessment examination results can be quickly and securely verified online at:
www.cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers

Results	Score
Pass at Grade A	180 – 190
Pass at Grade B	173 – 179
Pass at Grade C	160 – 172
Level B1	140 – 159


Candidates taking the First Certificate in English scoring between 122 and 139 on the Cambridge English Scale do not receive a result, CEFR level or certificate.

Cambridge English Scale scores below 122 are not reported for the First Certificate in English.

Other

X - the candidate was absent from part of the examination
Z - the candidate was absent from all parts of the examination
Pending - a result cannot be issued at present, but will follow in due course
Withheld - the candidate should contact their centre for information
Exempt - the candidate was not required to sit this part of the examination

THIS IS NOT A CERTIFICATE
 Cambridge English Language Assessment reserves the right to amend the information given before the issue of certificates to successful candidates.



Certificate

Successful candidates will also receive a certificate showing their overall score, five individual scores, grade and CEFR level.

Setting your requirements

1. What level of English do you need?

It is important to consider both the level of English needed for your courses and which exam is most suited to your needs. This will depend on the level of study and the subject(s) being studied.

Each of our exams is targeted at a different level of the CEFR, which means they assess a candidate on a wide range of skills and knowledge at that level. The context of questions is also appropriate to the level being assessed, with higher levels having a greater academic focus.

As a guide, we recommend the following exams for the different levels of study:

Foundation/pre-sessional <i>Cambridge English: First</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Targeted at CEFR Level B2Reports on the Cambridge English Scale between 122 and 190	Undergraduate & postgraduate <i>Cambridge English: Advanced</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Targeted at CEFR Level C1Reports on the Cambridge English Scale between 142 and 210	Postgraduate <i>Cambridge English: Proficiency</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Targeted at CEFR Level C2Reports on the Cambridge English Scale between 162 and 230
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2. What Cambridge English Scale score?

The Cambridge English Scale makes it easy to:

1. specify the overall score you need
2. if required, specify minimum scores for the individual skills.

You can use the table to the right to ensure that the Cambridge English Scale score you ask for is at the same level as your CEFR requirements.

Alternatively, please visit www.cambridgeenglish.org/scale-institutions and use our interactive score converter. You can input your existing CEFR, *IELTS* or pre-2015 Cambridge English requirement and convert it to a Cambridge English Scale score.

CEFR	Cambridge English Scale scores
C2	200+
C1	180-199
B2	160-179
B1	140-159

Example requirement for an undergraduate course:

Cambridge English: Advanced
Overall Cambridge English Scale score of 180. No less than 175 in each skill.



If you have any questions or need help setting your requirements, please do not hesitate to get in touch at recognition@cambridgeenglish.org

Verifying results

You can use the free, secure online Results Verification Service to check a candidate's results for all three exams: www.cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers

Students should supply their **Candidate ID number** and **Secret number** to allow institutions to verify results. These are included on their **Confirmation of Entry**, which they receive when registering for the exam.

Comparing Cambridge English Scale scores to IELTS

If your institution already uses *IELTS** scores for admissions purposes, specifying scores on the Cambridge English Scale is easy.

You can use the table opposite to ensure that the Cambridge English Scale score you ask for is at the same level as your *IELTS* requirements.

As the producer of *IELTS* we can provide a reliable comparison between *IELTS* results and *Cambridge English: First, Advanced and Proficiency* scores reported on the Cambridge English Scale.



For more information about how we make these comparisons, please visit www.cambridgeenglish.org/scale-institutions

IELTS band score	Cambridge English Scale scores
9.0	209+
8.5	205-208
8.0	200-204
7.5	191-199
7.0	185-190
6.5	176-184
6.0	169-175
5.5	162-168
5.0	154-161
4.5	147-153
4.0	142-146

* *IELTS* is jointly owned by British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge English Language Assessment.

Three steps to accepting Cambridge English exams

Attract high-achieving students to your university or college by specifying our exams as an entrance requirement. You can start officially accepting our exams in three simple steps:

Step 1

Go to www.cambridgeenglish.org/institutions-accept and fill in the form. You can use it to ask for further information too.

Step 2

Amend your website, course literature and offer letter to state which Cambridge English exams and which scores are accepted by your institution – and for which courses.

Step 3

Sign up for our free, secure online **Results Verification Service** to instantly verify applicants' exam results and view their test-day photo. To register, go to www.cambridgeenglish.org/verifiers

Contact us

To find out more about our exams, email our Recognition team at recognition@cambridgeenglish.org – we will be delighted to provide more information or organise a meeting.



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Part of the University of Cambridge

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www.cambridgeenglish.org/helpdesk



www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-for-admissions



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[YouTube youtube.com/CambridgeEnglishTV](https://youtube.com/CambridgeEnglishTV)

Cambridge English Language Assessment is part of the University of Cambridge.
We provide the most valuable range of qualifications for learners and teachers of English in the world.



ISO 9001:2008
F5514675



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