

## IELTS

**Every main applicant** for a skilled visa must demonstrate that they have a **competent** level of English language ability.

To demonstrate this you will need to have achieved an **IELTS** test score of at least 6 for each of the 4 test components of speaking, reading, writing and listening; or hold a passport from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or Ireland.

You will be required to have your English language test results before you lodge your application, however you must have sat the IELTS test **no** more than 2 years before the day on which your application is lodged.

The following table shows the English language levels and the evidence you will need to provide.

Level of English	Points	Evidence required
Proficient	25 points	<p>You must provide one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IELTS Test Report Form (TRF) Number to show you have a band score of at least seven (7) on each of the four (4) components – speaking, reading, listening and writing or</li> <li>evidence of having achieved a score of 'B' or higher on each of the four (4) components of the OET Test.</li> </ul>
Competent	15 points	<p>You must provide one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evidence that you hold an eligible passport</li> <li>IELTS TRF Number to show you have a band score of at least six (6) on each of the four (4) components – speaking, reading, listening and writing.</li> </ul>

**IELTS**, which is short for the International English Language Testing System, is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication. It is the **preferred test** of English for students intending to study in Australia and covers the four language skills - listening, reading, writing and speaking.

If the applicant holds a passport issued by United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, the United States of America, or the Republic of Ireland they are exempt from undertaking an IELTS examination and will receive 15 points. *Please note that this does not apply for certain occupations, where you will be required to undertake an IELTS examination for Skills Assessment purposes.* Also, If you wish to claim 25 points you will need to meet the required English language test results for proficient English as per the above table.

Some exceptions apply to applicants for provisional visas who will meet the English language threshold if they have 'concessional competent' English and are sponsored by an eligible relative or

participating state or territory. They should also note the IELTS required for the visa may differ from any English Language requirements that may be needed for their skill assessment.

There is a strong demand for IELTS tests in Australia and all centres are booked well in advance. You must book your IELTS test as early as possible. Check with individual IELTS centres for their test schedule as new places regularly become available through cancellations.  
<http://www.ielts.org/default.aspx>

### **Skills assessments and English**

A higher level of English is required for certain occupations where it forms part of the skills assessment and you may be required to obtain a higher level of English than 'competent'. You can find out if your occupation requires a higher level of English by contacting the assessing authority for your nominated occupation.