



Degree students for UK unaffected by UKVI changes

- **The UK government has announced important changes to Secure English Language Tests (SELT) for visa purposes;**
- **Those studying in the UK are not affected by this change and can sit IELTS at any test centre**
- **IELTS has been operating in Iran since 1989 despite sanctions**
- **IELTS is accepted by over 9000 recognising organisations worldwide**

The UK government has announced important changes to language testing for visa applications, reducing the number of tests accepted for visa purposes and bringing in new requirements for the way the tests will be administered.

IELTS – the world’s most popular test of English for higher education and global migration – has been approved for all UK visas that require applicants to provide proof of their level of English. This continues the important role which IELTS has long played in language testing for immigration in the UK and other countries, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The key changes are:

1. IELTS is now the only approved SELT (Secure English Language Test) available outside the UK
2. IELTS tests for visa purposes must be taken in selected locations.

Please note institutions licensed to sponsor students under Tier 4 are not affected by these changes.

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

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 taken under the UKVI requirement.

All British universities and colleges accept IELTS results. Tier 4 Student Visa applicants can apply to the UK universities listed here www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students. The results from any of the 5 IELTS test centres in Iran will be accepted, unless their institution has additional requirements.

Regardless of their target institutions' status, all applicants are required to meet the English language level set by their institution.

Warwick Freeland, Chief Strategy Officer IDP Education a co-owner of IELTS said “Despite sanctions IELTS has been operating in Iran since 1989. Today our test centres are operated by IELTS Tehran, Islamic Azad University, Irsafam, Asre-Din-O-Danesh and Centre for Exam Services. The IELTS test is offered in Tehran, Dezful, Hamedan, Khorasgan, Isfahan, Kermanshah, Mashhad, Rasht and Shiraz.”

To register for an IELTS test with any of our centres in Iran, please visit www.IELTSessentials.com

For further information on the UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) announcement, please visit: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration

IELTS tests for UK Visas and Immigration are managed by the IELTS SELT Consortium, which comprises British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge English Language Assessment.

IELTS, which is jointly owned by the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge English Language Assessment, has played a key role in language testing for immigration purposes throughout its 25 year history and is recognised by more than 9,000 organisations around the world including universities and employers in many countries, as well as by professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies. More than 2.5 million IELTS tests were taken in 2014 in more than 140 countries.