



# Information for OET candidates

OET is a healthcare-specific English language test. It assesses the language proficiency of healthcare professionals seeking to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Namibia and Singapore for registration in 12 healthcare professions. OET is also accepted by the Australian Department of Immigration, and Immigration New Zealand for most visa categories, as well as major health educators, qualification authorities and employers.

## Is OET the right test for me?

OET tests international health practitioners from the following 12 professions:



Dentistry	Occupational Therapy	Podiatry	Medicine	Pharmacy	Speech Pathology
Dietetics	Optometry	Radiography	Nursing	Physiotherapy	Veterinary Science

## Why should I take OET?

- ✓ OET is the English language test designed specifically for healthcare professionals.
- ✓ OET is recognised as proof of English proficiency by governments, healthcare regulators, employers, and educators.
- ✓ OET helps develop language skills for success in healthcare courses, clinical placement, healthcare registration and the workplace.
- ✓ It's easy to prepare for the test using OET's preparation resources, many of which are online and included in the cost of the test.
- ✓ Recommended by past test takers because preparation and test materials reflect real healthcare scenarios, so you'll know what to expect and feel more confident on test day.
- ✓ OET assesses the ability to communicate effectively in an English-speaking healthcare workplace.

## How is OET different to general or academic English tests?

OET tests real communication scenarios you will experience in the healthcare workplace, whereas other tests assess English language skills using everyday scenarios.

 <p>Example 1: <b>Writing</b></p>	<p><b>General or academic English Test</b> Write an essay on a general topic</p>	<p><b>OET</b> Write a healthcare letter, usually a referral letter based on case notes</p>
 <p>Example 2: <b>Speaking</b></p>	<p><b>General or academic English Test</b> Structured interview on a general topic</p>	<p><b>OET</b> Health professional to patient role-plays</p>

# Who recognises OET?

## Government departments

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for visas in:

**Australia** | The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) accepts OET for all visa categories where an English test may be required. Visit [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) for more details.

**New Zealand** | Immigration New Zealand accepts OET for all visa categories where an English test may be required. Visit [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz) for more details.

## Healthcare Boards and Councils

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for registration, accreditation and licensing purposes in:

**UK** | OET is accepted by the Nursing & Midwifery Council and the General Medical Council.

**Ireland** | OET is accepted by the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland and the Irish Medical Council.

**Australia** | OET is accepted for registration purposes by most professional Boards within the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and most healthcare profession Councils for accreditation purposes.

**New Zealand** | OET is accepted by most healthcare Boards and Councils in New Zealand.

**Dubai Healthcare City Authority-Regulatory (DHCR)** | accepts OET for licensing of healthcare professionals who have not graduated from a program offered in English, nor worked or licensed in a native English speaking country.

**Namibia** | OET is accepted by the Health Professions Council of Namibia.

**Singapore** | OET is accepted by four major healthcare Councils in Singapore.

## Qualification Authorities

**Dubai** | The Dubai Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) accepts OET as a quality standard qualification for proof of English proficiency.

**New Zealand** | The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) accepts OET as an approved English Proficiency Assessment.

## Universities, education providers, and recruiters

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for employment by healthcare employers, and a growing number of leading educators in:

**Australia** | OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for admission and graduation from healthcare courses at leading universities, TAFEs and colleges in Australia.

**New Zealand** | OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for admission and graduation from healthcare courses at leading universities and technical colleges.

For the most up to date list of organisations recognising OET as proof of English proficiency visit: [www.occupationalenglishtest.org/recognition](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/recognition)

## What's in the test?

OET covers all four language skills with an emphasis on communication in a healthcare environment. The Listening and Reading sub-tests are designed to assess your ability to understand spoken and written English, based on health-related topics and tasks common to all professions. The Writing and Speaking sub-tests are specific to the 12 individual healthcare professions – designed to reflect common tasks performed in the workplace.



### Writing (45 minutes)

Writing a profession-specific letter of referral or discharge; or a letter to inform or advise a patient/carer/group.



### Speaking (45 minutes)

Profession-specific scenario role-plays with an interlocutor who plays the part of a patient/relative/carer.



### Reading (60 minutes)

Completion of a health-related summary paragraph and multiple choice questions on a longer health-related text.



### Listening (50 minutes)

Note-taking on a recorded professional consultation and a range of questions on a health-related talk.

## Where and when can I take OET?

OET is available up to 12 times a year, in over 40 countries. For OET test dates and a list of countries where the test is available, visit [www.occupationalenglishtest.org/test-dates](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/test-dates)

## How do I apply for OET?

You apply for OET via the website. You will find all the information you need to apply for OET, including test regulations, guidelines for uploading photos, test costs and how to pay, at [www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply)

## How can I prepare for the test?

### Free material

- ✓ Free Start for Success package preparation material. The package includes access to a range of videos, lessons, sample answers, guides and more – all designed to help you prepare for success.
- ✓ Free sample tests are available for all 12 professions that the OET covers.
- ✓ Free masterclasses on Speaking, Reading, Writing and Listening available at any time, on any device.
- ✓ Free live Q&A sessions twice a month on Facebook @OfficialOET.
- ✓ Free test advice, language learning tips and interactive quizzes on Facebook.

### For purchase

- ✓ Purchase the OET Online Preparation Course and course materials from OET shop.
- ✓ Purchase an Online Course Feedback Voucher to receive customised feedback on your speaking and writing.
- ✓ Find a list of endorsed training providers who offer Premium Preparation courses for OET.

For more information on OET preparation material, visit: [www.occupationalenglishtest.org/prepare](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/prepare)

## When and how will I receive my results?

Your results will be released approximately 16 business days after the test: log in to your secure online profile to see them.

## How is OET scored?

You will receive a separate grade for each sub-test ranging from A (highest) to E (lowest). There is no overall grade. Here are the descriptions for each grade that appear on the printed Statement of Results:

OET grade	Description of ability	IELTS
A	Very high level of performance	8.0–9.0
B	High level of performance; i.e. able to use English with fluency and accuracy adequate for healthcare registration, <sup>1</sup> appropriate visa categories, healthcare courses and workplaces	7.0–7.5
C+	Very good level of performance; adequate for appropriate visa categories, healthcare courses and workplaces	6.5
C	Good level of performance; adequate for appropriate visa categories, some healthcare courses and workplaces	5.5–6.0
D	Moderate level of performance: requires improvement	4.0–5.0
E	Low level of performance: requires considerable improvement	–

<sup>1</sup> Check with the relevant professional body or organisation to find out the minimum OET grade level required for registration.

## About OET

The Occupational English Test (OET) assesses the language proficiency of healthcare professionals seeking to register and practise in an English-speaking environment. OET is accepted in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Namibia and Singapore for registration. OET is also accepted by the Australian Department of Immigration and Immigration New Zealand for all visa categories where an English test may be required.

OET is owned by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment Trust (CBLA), a venture between Cambridge Assessment English and Box Hill Institute. Cambridge Assessment English, part of the University of Cambridge, helps millions of people learn English and prove their skills to the world. Box Hill Institute is a leading Australian vocational and higher education provider.



## Apply online

[www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply)

Have a question? Contact us

The OET Centre  
PO Box 16136, Collins St West  
VIC 8007  
Australia

Tel: +61 3 8656 4000

[www.occupationalenglishtest.org/helpdesk](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/helpdesk)