



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 US, the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Namibia, Ukraine, Malta and Singapore for registration in 12 healthcare professions. OET is also accepted by the Australian Department of Home Affairs and Immigration New Zealand for most visa categories, while doctors and nurses in the UK need not take a separate English test when applying for a Tier 2 (General) visa.

Is OET the right test for me?

OET tests internationally educated healthcare professionals 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 free.
- ✓ 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.

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

Who recognises OET?

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

Government departments

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

Australia | The Australian Department of Home Affairs accepts OET for all visa categories where an English test may be required. Visit www.homeaffairs.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 for more details.

Healthcare Boards and Councils

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency by major Healthcare Boards and Councils in the US, the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Namibia, Singapore, Malta and the Ukraine.

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 and education providers

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency by a growing number of leading educators for admission and graduation from healthcare courses.

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 can I take OET?

OET is available in more than 40 countries. For OET test dates and a list of countries where the test is available, visit 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.

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

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 numerical score ranging from 0–500 in ten-point increments (e.g. 350, 360, 370...). The numeric scores will be mapped to a separate letter grade for each sub-test ranging from A (highest) to E (lowest). There is no overall grade.

Have a question? Contact us

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www.occupationalenglishtest.org/helpdesk

About OET

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.

OET letter grade	OET score	OET band descriptors	IELTS equivalent band score	CEFR equivalent band score
A	500 490 480 470 460 450	Can communicate very fluently and effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate register, tone and lexis. Shows complete understanding of any kind of written or spoken language.	8.0 – 9.0	C2
B	440 430 420 410 400 390 380 370 360 350	Can communicate effectively with patients and health professionals using appropriate register, tone and lexis, with only occasional inaccuracies and hesitations. Shows good understanding in a range of clinical contexts.	7.0 – 7.5	C1
C+	340 330 320 310 300	Can maintain the interaction in a relevant healthcare environment despite occasional errors and lapses, and follow standard spoken language normally encountered in his/her field of specialisation.	6.5	B2
C	290 280 270 260 250 240 230 220 210 200		5.5 – 6.0	
D	190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100	Can maintain some interaction and understand straightforward factual information in his/her field of specialisation, but may ask for clarification. Frequent errors, inaccuracies and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause strain in communication.	Less than 5.5	
E	90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0	Can manage simple interaction on familiar topics and understand the main point in short, simple messages, provided he/she can ask for clarification. High density of errors and mis- or overuse of technical language can cause significant strain and breakdowns in communication.		

Apply online:

www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply

