



ALU English Proficiency Test FAQs

Introduction

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions about the ALU English Proficiency Test. It was created to help prospective students better understand the reasons for the assessment, how it is run and its outcomes.

FAQs

1. Why am I being asked to take the test?

All ALU applicants are required to provide evidence of having B2 English proficiency or above in order to be unconditionally admitted. To do so, prospective students are normally required to submit scores from one of the [standardised tests](#) acceptable at ALU.

Alternatively, prospective students can take ALU's own standardised English proficiency test (ALU EPT) which is offered free of charge to residents of Rwanda. prospective students who score a B2 or above in the test will clear the English language criteria for admissions.

2. What happens if I do not take the test?

The assessment is a requirement for all prospective students who do not have validated and verifiable standardised test scores. prospective students who do not take the test and who have not submitted valid standardised test scores that meet the minimum requirement will hold a conditional offer of admission until they provide the results of a credible English Proficiency Test. They will not be able to enrol into ALU until the minimum requirement of English proficiency has been proven through a submitted test score.

3. What should I do if I realise that I cannot make it to the test appointment after having booked a slot?

If you cannot make it to the test appointment, you should email the ALU Writing Centre as soon as possible at thewritingcentre@alueducation.com so that the team can book you for a subsequent test slot.

4. When will I know the results of the test?

If you complete your assessment on your set appointment date, the results will be available to you by 3 weeks after you write the test.

5. What happens if I fail the test?

If you score below B2 on the ALU EPT, you will not have met the threshold for admissions and you will not be able to move forward in the admissions process.

You will have to clear the English language requirement either by submitting a standardised test score or you can re-attempt the ALU EPT at a later sitting.

NB: It is therefore advisable that you take the ALU EPT as early as possible in the admissions cycle so that you have time to re-attempt the test.

6. What do I have to study to prepare for the test?

No extra preparation or further study is required. We want to get an accurate representation of your current level of English proficiency so you are not required to take any further action on top of what you would normally do to prepare for the start of your undergraduate studies in January 2024.

7. What happens during the day of the test? How is the test structured?

You are requested to report to the reception at the [ALU campus in Kigali Rwanda](#) at least 30 minutes before your appointment time. You will be guided through registration and directed to the test room by our test administrators.

Once everyone is seated you will be given instructions on how to access and navigate

the test. You will be supported by invigilators in the room. Once you are set up and ready on the assessment platform, the test will begin.

The test consists of 3 sections: the listening section, the reading section and the writing section.

The listening section will be conducted on a digital platform using your laptop. The section lasts 30 minutes. You will listen to 4 audio recordings in English and will have 20 multiple choice questions to answer based on the recordings.

The reading section will also be conducted on the online platform and lasts 60 minutes. You will have 4 passages at various levels of difficulty to read and will have to answer 30 multiple choice questions based on the passages.

The Writing section will be pen and paper based. During this section, no devices will be allowed. You will be provided with writing paper. You will be given a choice of 3 topics and will have to write a short essay of about 500 words on your chosen topics in 45 minutes.

After each section, you will be given a short 5 - 10 minutes break. After you complete all three sections you may leave the premises.

8. What should I bring for the test?

As an incoming student to ALU, you are expected to have a laptop for your undergraduate studies. Please bring your laptop as you will need it for the computer based sections of your test. If you do not have a laptop please contact the ALU Writing Centre immediately at thewritingcentre@alueducation.com so that alternative arrangements can be made for you. These assessments cannot be conducted on a smartphone.

You are also expected to bring a pen for the writing portion of the assessment. You are advised to bring a water bottle and a snack if you wish, as the test will last approximately 3 hours.

9. Who should I contact if I have further questions about the test?

If you have any questions about the ALU English Proficiency Test please contact the Writing Centre directly at thewritingcentre@alueducation.com.