

# Frequently Asked Questions

## About Using the *TOEFL iBT*® Test for Skilled Migration in Australia

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## **Introduction**

Australia's applicants for skilled migration now have a choice of approved English-language proficiency tests — including the *TOEFL iBT*® test — to meet visa requirements. The TOEFL iBT test measures the ability of nonnative English speakers to use and understand English as it is read, written, heard and spoken. The TOEFL iBT test is widely recognised by more than 10,000 institutions, organisations and governments in 130 countries.

## **FAQs – General**

### ***1. Can TOEFL iBT scores be used to meet the English language requirements for an Australian skilled migration visas?***

TOEFL iBT test scores are accepted for all visa subclasses of skilled migration and post study work visas. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection website (<http://www.border.gov.au>) contains current, detailed information about the score requirements for each visa subclass.

### ***2. What is the benefit to employers and professional accreditation bodies of the increase in approved English-proficiency test options?***

The increase in approved English-proficiency test options will improve access to potential employees globally and make English-language testing more convenient for many test takers.

Employers and skilled migrants can make a choice of approved English-language tests appropriate to their circumstances.

### ***3. Who is ETS?***

Founded in 1947, Educational Testing Service (ETS) is the creator of the TOEFL iBT test. ETS is the largest not-for-profit educational research and measurement company globally, and delivers more than 50 million tests worldwide each year.

### ***4. What is the TOEFL iBT test?***

The TOEFL iBT test measures the ability of nonnative English speakers to use and understand English as it is read, written, heard and spoken. The TOEFL iBT test is widely recognised by more than 10,000 institutions, organisations and governments in 130 countries. TOEFL iBT scores are used for educational admission, immigration, licensing and placement.

The TOEFL iBT test is undertaken in a supervised computer laboratory. The test uses speakers from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand in test material. TOEFL iBT markers accept international versions of English in spoken and written responses, so British and American spelling and variations in pronunciation are accepted.

### ***5. What TOEFL iBT score should employees have?***

ETS does not set a pass or fail score for the TOEFL iBT test, because each occupation has unique English-language needs. ETS prefers to work closely with organisations that recruit and employ skilled migrants and international graduates to assist in the identification of minimum scores that meet organisational needs. Free presentations, workshops and standard-setting sessions are available to help employers familiarise themselves with the TOEFL iBT test.

Research has been undertaken to compare TOEFL iBT scores with IELTS® scores. The results of this research can be viewed at [www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/scores/compare](http://www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/scores/compare). These score comparisons were used by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection when setting scores for visa purposes.

## **6. How is the TOEFL iBT test different from other measures of English proficiency?**

The TOEFL iBT test is the most widely available test of English proficiency. The test is conducted at more than 4,000 secure, ETS-approved test centres globally.

The TOEFL iBT test includes “integrated” test questions in both the Speaking and Writing sections. Integrated tasks require the test taker to read, listen, and then provide written or spoken responses to what they have read and heard. Integrated tasks deter rote learning of test responses.

The scoring process for the TOEFL iBT test is designed to deliver objectivity, fairness and consistency of test scores. ETS separates the scoring process from the testing process, eliminating many security issues that would arise from giving test administrators access to scoring tools.

## **7. How is the TOEFL iBT test scored to obtain consistent, objective measures of proficiency?**

The Reading and Listening sections are composed of multiple-choice questions and are scored by computer. Markers for the Speaking and Writing sections undertake rigorous training before they are permitted to score, and they must pass calibration tests daily before they begin to mark responses each day. Multiple scorers rate each test taker’s Speaking and Writing responses: three to six different scorers for the six Speaking responses, and four ratings for the two Writing responses.

Scoring leaders actively monitor all markers during the scoring process to maintain consistency across markers and across test events. Scorers see and hear worldwide responses, not just those from one country. Scorers cannot identify the test taker whose responses they are marking. All scoring and score reporting is separate from the test site to maintain score integrity.

## **8. How can I verify a TOEFL iBT score result with ETS?**

To verify a TOEFL iBT score, you must provide evidence that the test taker has given you access to his or her test results. Provide a scanned copy of the test taker’s score report along with your name, your organisation’s name and your contact details. This information should be emailed to [TOEFLVerifySpecial@ets.org](mailto:TOEFLVerifySpecial@ets.org) for a quick response.

Your response from ETS will advise you if:

- the score is the same as in the ETS database, or
- the score is on hold for administrative reasons, or
- the score cannot be verified.

You can request a TOEFL iBT score be reviewed if you believe a verified score is not valid. All queries are investigated. Use the email address above to outline your concerns and provide any evidence. A response will be provided by ETS after an investigation is completed.

## **9. How does a test taker register for a TOEFL iBT test?**

The easiest way for a test taker to register for a TOEFL iBT test is online at [www.ets.org/toefl/register](http://www.ets.org/toefl/register). The test taker creates a personal profile, then chooses a test date from the options provided in that location. Details about the location and start time are provided in the registration website. Test takers can preview what to expect on test day at the test centre by watching the Test Day video at [www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/test\\_day/expect/](http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/test_day/expect/).

## **10. Where can a test taker sit the TOEFL iBT test? How much does it cost in Australia?**

All TOEFL iBT tests are conducted in ETS-approved test centres. The TOEFL iBT test is administered about 50 times a year at more than 4000 test centres in 165 countries. Test locations are found at [www.ets.org/toefl/locations](http://www.ets.org/toefl/locations).

Australian TOEFL iBT test centres currently are located in Brisbane, Jimboomba, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, with more centres planned. The test is given on a single day and takes about 4 hours. With check-in, the test taker should plan to be at the test site for about 4½ hours. The test fee depends on the test location. A TOEFL iBT test costs US\$300 per test in Australia.

### **11. How quickly are TOEFL iBT scores available after testing?**

Scores are available approximately 10 days after the test date. Test takers are advised by email that their scores have been posted to their TOEFL online account. Scores can be verified by a score user as soon as they are posted to the test taker's account. The score scale includes:

- Reading 0–30
- Listening 0–30
- Speaking 0–30
- Writing 0–30
- Total Score 0–120

The total score is the sum of the four skill scores.

### **12. How long are TOEFL iBT scores valid? How often can you take the test?**

TOEFL scores are valid for two years after the test date. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection recognises English test results for three years from the test date for skilled migration applications.

There is no limit to the number of times an individual can take the test, but they cannot take it more than once in a 12-day period.

Test takers can get the experience of taking the real TOEFL iBT test with **TOEFL® Practice Online**. By purchasing this official practice test, test takers can improve their skills and receive same-day scores and performance feedback before undertaking their official TOEFL test. <http://toeflpractice.ets.org/>

### **13. Does the TOEFL program offer accommodations to test takers with disabilities?**

ETS is committed to serving test takers with disabilities or health-related needs by providing services and reasonable accommodations deemed appropriate given the purpose of the test. Go to [www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/disabilities](http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/disabilities) to see the steps a test taker needs to take to register.

### **14. Where can I find more TOEFL iBT resources?**

TOEFL Australia website	<a href="http://www.ets.org/toefl/australia">www.ets.org/toefl/australia</a>
TOEFL / IELTS research	<a href="http://www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/scores/compare">www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/scores/compare</a>
TOEFL iBT Test Preparation	<a href="http://www.toeflgoanywhere.org/toefl-practice">http://www.toeflgoanywhere.org/toefl-practice</a>
TOEFL® Online Prep Course	<a href="http://store.ets.org/store/ets/en_US/pd/ThemeID.12805600/productID.288613500/categoryId.355200">http://store.ets.org/store/ets/en_US/pd/ThemeID.12805600/productID.288613500/categoryId.355200</a>
TOEFL Practice Online	<a href="http://toeflpractice.ets.org/">http://toeflpractice.ets.org/</a>

## **FAQs – Accounting**

### ***AC-1. Which professional bodies accept TOEFL iBT scores?***

Accounting professionals can use their TOEFL iBT test scores to demonstrate the English-language proficiency required for initial registration with **CPA Australia**, **Institute of Public Accountants (IPA)** and **Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ)**.

You can read more about the requirements on the organisations' websites:

- **CPA Australia:** <http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/become-a-cpa/migration-assessment/english-language-requirements>
- **IPA:** <https://www.publicaccountants.org.au/about-us/immigration/english-competency>
- **CAANZ:** <http://www.charteredaccountants.com.au/The-Institute/Migration-assessment/How-to-Apply/Skills-assessment/English-language-requirement>

### ***AC-2. What minimum scores are needed for registration?***

**CPA Australia**, **IPA** and **CAANZ** require a minimum total score of 94 for the general skills assessment, with the following minimum scores across the four sections:

- 24 for Listening
- 24 for Reading
- 27 for Writing
- 23 for Speaking

**CPA Australia**, **IPA** and **CAANZ** require a minimum total score of 64 for the provisional assessment. Meeting the English proficiency requirements of the temporary visa (subclass 485) will require the following minimum scores across the four sections:

- 12 for Listening
- 13 for Reading
- 21 for Writing
- 18 for Speaking

### ***AC-3. Do the required test scores need to be achieved in one sitting?***

Yes. **CPA Australia**, **IPA** and **CAANZ** do not accept results from multiple sittings, so all section scores must be from the same sitting.

### ***AC-4. Can the same TOEFL test result be used for CPA Australia/IPA/CAANZ registration that will be used for my skilled or student visa application?***

Clients can use the same test result for initial registration as an accounting professional, provided it is still within the validity window of two years when the application is lodged.

## **FAQs – Community Work**

### ***CW-1. Which professional bodies accept TOEFL iBT scores?***

The **Australian Community Workers Association** accepts TOEFL iBT scores to meet the English language competency element of the Migration Skills Assessment for both the Welfare Centre Manager and the Welfare Worker. You can read more about the Association's requirements on their website: <http://www.acwa.org.au/migration-assessment/definitions>.

### ***CW-2. What minimum scores are needed?***

The **Australian Community Workers Association** requires the following minimum scores across the four sections of the TOEFL iBT test undertaken in the previous two years:

- 24 for Listening
- 24 for Reading
- 27 for Writing
- 23 for Speaking

## **FAQs – Engineering**

### ***EN-1. Which professional bodies accept TOEFL iBT scores?***

**Engineers Australia** accepts TOEFL iBT scores to meet the English-language competency element of the Migration Skills Assessment. You can read more about the requirements on the **Engineers Australia** website: <https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au>.

### ***EN-2. What minimum scores are needed?***

**Engineers Australia** requires the following minimum scores across the four sections of the TOEFL iBT test undertaken in the previous two years:

- 12 for Listening
- 13 for Reading
- 21 for Writing
- 18 for Speaking

## **FAQs – Health and Medicine**

### ***HM-1. Which professional bodies accept TOEFL iBT scores?***

Health professionals regulated by the **Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency (AHPRA)** can use their TOEFL iBT test scores to demonstrate the English-language proficiency required for initial registration. You can read more about the requirements on the AHPRA website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Standards/English-language-skills.aspx>.

The **Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)** accepts TOEFL iBT scores to meet the English-language competency element of the Migration Skills Assessment. You can read more about the requirements on the ANMAC website at <https://www.anmac.org.au/skilled-migration-services/faq#t191n701>.

The **Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS)** accepts TOEFL iBT scores to meet the English-language competency element of the Migration Skills Assessment. You can read more about the requirements on the AIMS website at <https://www.aims.org.au/documents/item/88>.

### ***HM-2. Which professions are affected?***

Medical and health professionals seeking initial registration with **AHPRA** and **ANMAC** can use their TOEFL result in the following fields:

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| • Dental                | • Pharmacy         |
| • Medical               | • Physiotherapy    |
| • Nursing and midwifery | • Podiatry         |
| • Medical radiation     | • Psychology       |
| • Occupational therapy  | • Chinese medicine |
| • Optometry             | • Chiropractic     |
| • Osteopathy            |                    |

### ***HM-3. What minimum scores are needed for registration?***

**AHPRA** and **ANMAC** require a minimum total score of 94, with the following minimum scores across the four categories:

- 24 for Listening
- 24 for Reading
- 23 for Speaking
- 27 for Writing

**AIMS** requires a total score of 95 from the TOEFL iBT test undertaken in the previous three years for the roles of Medical Laboratory Scientist and Medical Laboratory Technician.

### ***HM-4 Must the required test scores be achieved in one sitting?***

**AHPRA** and **ANMAC** accept results from a maximum of two test sittings in a six-month period, provided that you have achieved the minimum total score of 94 and the following minimum scores in each sitting:

- 20 for Listening
- 19 for Reading
- 24 for Writing
- 20 for Speaking

**AIMS** requires that the scores be achieved in one test sitting, within the last three years.

### ***HM-5. Can applicants use the same TOEFL test result for AHPRA registration and for a skilled or student visa application?***

The same test result for initial registration as a health professional can be used, provided it is still within the validity window of two years when the application is lodged.

## **FAQs – Migration Agents**

### ***MA-1. Which professional bodies accept TOEFL iBT scores?***

Migration agents can use their TOEFL iBT test scores to demonstrate the English-language proficiency required for initial registration with the **Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA)**. You can read more about the requirements on the **OMARA** website: <https://www.mara.gov.au/becoming-an-agent/registration-requirements/english-language/>.

### ***MA-2. What minimum scores are needed for registration?***

The **OMARA** requires a minimum total score of 100, with the following minimum scores across the four categories:

- 22 for Listening
- 22 for Reading
- 22 for Speaking
- 22 for Writing

## **FAQs – Veterinary Science**

### ***VS-1. Which professional bodies accept TOEFL iBT scores?***

The **Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)** accepts TOEFL iBT scores to meet the English-language competency element of the Migration Skills Assessment. You can read more about the requirements on the Council's website: <https://avbc.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/documents/public/VetScienceInAusNov2016.pdf>

### ***VS-2. What minimum scores are needed?***

**AVBC** requires the following minimum scores across the four sections of the TOEFL iBT test undertaken in the previous two years:

- 24 for Listening
- 24 for Reading
- 27 for Writing
- 23 for Speaking