

ISLPR® - International Second Language Proficiency Ratings

ISLPR LANGUAGE SERVICES ABN 74 421 092 152

TEST APPLICATION

Academic Entry

Complete all sections on this page. Use a blue or black pen. Print clearly in **BLOCK CAPITALS**.

NAME
family name given name(s) preferred name title

DATE OF BIRTH / / **MALE / FEMALE** (Please circle)
dd mm yy

MAIL ADDRESS **CONTACTS** Mobile
Home phone Fax
Post Code Email

FIRST LANGUAGE **ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA** Month Year

PREVIOUS FAMILY NAME (if changed)

PRESENT ACTIVITY. If studying, please give details (e.g. Year 11 at Smithtown High School or EAP 2 ELICOS at Griffith University)

TEST HISTORY Have you ever done an ISLPR test before? (Please tick) Yes No

If you ticked YES, please state when / / and where you did the test.
dd mm yy

TEST REQUIRED Full test Part test* * Please note the reference to part tests on the POLICY page.

If applying for a part test, which skill/s? Speaking Listening Reading Writing

If applying for a part test, please state your reason

If you are hoping to combine results from ISLPR and another testing system (e.g. IELTS), please attach a copy of your other results.

PREFERRED WEEK FOR TEST Week beginning / / *
dd mm yy

Please state any days or hours that are not suitable for you during this week

*If we can not arrange a test for you during this week, we will give you the closest possible date. Your chances of getting an appointment that suits you will be better if ISLPR LANGUAGE SERVICES receives your form and payment at least 14 days in advance.

REASON FOR TEST Entry to:

Secondary School Please state name of school and intended Year Level

TAFE Undergraduate Postgraduate Other
(Including Foundation Program) (Including PQP) (Please state)

Please write name of academic program that you wish to enter (e.g. M of Professional Accounting)

If applicable, please state previous degree/major

The information I have given on this form is correct. I have read and I accept the ISLPR LANGUAGE SERVICES POLICY and CONDITIONS.

Signature Date / /
dd mm yy

Office Use Only ID Type & No. Checked by

Fee r'd / / Cand. advised / / email / letter / fax / in person

Amount \$ Tester advised / / email / letter / fax / phone / in person

Receipt Results faxed to auth (where applicable) / /

Payment by Results entered db / /

Tester

Test date / /

Time

POLICY

Part tests. You may take a part test (i.e. one, two or three skills) if – but only if – you provide evidence that you have already reached the level(s) that you need in the other skill(s). Please note that, if you plan to combine results from different tests and/or testing systems (e.g. ISLPR and IELTS), you should check with the institution or authority whether they will accept combinations and what conditions they set.

Re-tests. If you wish to repeat a full test or to be re-tested in any skill(s), you must wait at least four weeks from the date of your previous test.

Results. Results for tests conducted at our office are generally ready seven working days after the test. On or before the seventh working day, the results will be posted to the mail address that you have written on the application form. If you wish to collect your results letter in person, you must arrange this with the ISLPR Administrative Officer when you sit for your test. If you wish to make a special arrangement (e.g. a friend to collect the statement of results), you must discuss this with the ISLPR Administrative Officer.

Life of results. We recommend that the results for any skill should be valid for 12 months from the date the skill was tested. Some institutions extend this to 24 months.

Re-checks. If you are not satisfied with your results, you may apply for a re-check of one or more skills within four weeks of the test date. Re-check application forms with details are available from the ISLPR Administrative Officer.

CONDITIONS

- You must pay the test fee when you submit the form.
- If you wish to **cancel your test** and you notify the ISLPR Administrative Officer no later than 4:30 pm **seven days** before the booked test date (or, if the test date has not been finalised, seven days before the Friday of the preferred week), the test fee will be refunded, less an administration charge of \$70. If you do not give seven days advance notice, no refund will be given.
- If you wish to **change the date or time of a booked test**, notify the ISLPR Administrative Officer no later than 4:30 pm **seven days** before the test date. If you do not give seven days advance notice, you must pay an administration charge of \$70.
- If you **arrive late** for your test, you may be required to re-book and pay an administration charge of \$70.
- On your test day, you must present your **passport**. Other forms of identification may be acceptable under certain conditions (see your appointment letter). Your photograph may be taken at the time of the test and reproduced on your statement of results.
- You must sign that you have read and that you accept these conditions.

TO APPLY

Please submit this form, completed and signed, together with the test fee, to the ISLPR Administrative Officer. With mail applications (see address below) we accept only Money Orders (made payable to ISLPR LANGUAGE SERVICES). Payment in person at our office (see address and hours below) can be by Money Order or cash; there is an ATM in the Eight Mile Plains Shopping Centre.

by mail ✉
ISLPR Language Services
PO Box 4659
Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113

in person † (between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday to Friday)
Level 1, Office Suites, Eight Mile Plains Shopping Centre
Corner of Warrigal and Padstow Roads
Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113
(Take stairs next to Dentist and follow ISLPR signs)

Fees for tests conducted at our office in 2009 are (in Australian dollars):

Test of 3 or 4 skills: \$280

Test of 1 or 2 skills; \$170 (see POLICY on part tests above)

After the ISLPR Administrative Officer has received the form and payment, you will receive in writing (by email if you have given us an email address) the date and time of your test and other necessary information.

For further information, please contact the ISLPR Administrative Officer by mail or in person (addresses above), or

phone +61 (0)7 3423 2505

fax +61 (0)7 3423 2505

email <info@islpr.org>

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ISLPR® TESTS

- **Where can I take a test?**

Tests are generally conducted at our office at Eight Mile Plains. If there is sufficient demand in another city or country, testers may travel there to conduct tests. In such cases, the cost of the test is increased to cover travel and accommodation expenses.
- **When can I take a test at the ISLPR LANGUAGE SERVICES office at Eight Mile Plains?**

Except when our office is closed for the Christmas/New Year holiday period, tests are conducted every week. They are generally conducted on weekdays (Monday to Friday) between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. On the application form we ask you to tell us the week that you would prefer and any days or hours during that week that would not be suitable for you.
- **When should I apply for my test?**

We recommend that you apply at least 14 days in advance. Please note that we are very busy at critical periods for tests for academic entry (i.e. January, February, June and July) so if you want a test at these periods you should apply early.
- **Can I take only a part of a test?**

You can do a part test (one, two, or three skills) if – but only if – you provide evidence that you have already reached the level(s) that you need in the other skill(s). Please note that, if you plan to combine results from different testing systems (e.g. ISLPR and IELTS), you should check whether the institution or authority will accept combinations and what conditions they set.
- **How can I find out what level(s) I need?**

Most institutions publish the levels they require. The highest level on the ISLPR scale is 5.
- **How long does the test take?**

A full test takes about two and a quarter hours. The one-to-one interview during which Speaking, Listening and Reading skills are tested takes about 60 minutes. For the Writing test, the tester explains the tasks and then you have 60 minutes to write your answers. A part test takes less time.
- **How quickly can I get my result?**

Test results are generally ready in seven working days. See POLICY page for details.
- **How are test results reported?**

Results are reported as a profile (e.g. Speaking: 3 Listening: 3 Reading: 3+ Writing: 2+). No 'overall' score is given. Your profile will be matched against the profile required.
- **Can I get an extra copy of my results?**

Extra statements of results can be provided. The administration charge is \$20 per statement. At least two working days advance notice are normally required. Unless the results are to be sent to the address you originally gave on your application, you will be required to produce ID.
- **If my levels are not high enough, how long must I wait before I can re-take the test?**

It takes time for proficiency to improve, so you must wait a minimum of four weeks between tests.
- **If my levels are not high enough, can I get feedback on my test?**

Under certain conditions we give feedback. Please contact the ISLPR Administrative Officer.
- **How much does a test at the ISLPR LANGUAGE SERVICES office cost?**

The test fee depends on how many skills you are taking. Please see the POLICY page.
- **Can I get an example of the test?**

Your test will be custom built to your particular situation. It is not possible to show exactly what any particular test will be like. We provide guidelines (see following page) but we have not published examples.
- **How should I prepare for my test?**

You should practise using English in a wide range of communication situations. Especially if your test is for postgraduate study, focus on the language of your academic discipline. Reading and listening to authentic texts (e.g. Australian newspapers and radio programs) are very important. If you are preparing outside Australia, you can access newspapers on the web, and radio programs through your computer (go to <http://www.abc.net.au/>) or through Radio Australia.

We do not recommend that you prepare for an ISLPR test in the way that many candidates prepare for some other English tests (e.g. memorising tasks that they hope to get).

GUIDELINES FOR TESTS FOR ENTRY TO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The form of the test

Speaking, Listening and Reading skills are tested in a one-to-one interview that takes about 60 minutes. This interview is audio-recorded. For the Writing test, the tester will give you task sheets and explain the tasks to you; then you will have 60 minutes to write.

Speaking

Speaking skills are judged throughout the interview. The first part of the interview (about 15 minutes) is a conversation. The tester will introduce topics about everyday life and your particular needs and interests.

Listening

Listening skills are judged throughout the interview. In one part of the interview, however, there is a particular focus on Listening. The tester will ask you to listen to one or more authentic texts (e.g. news stories, news commentaries, interviews, talk-back, documentary material, community announcements or advertisements). Other texts such as messages on answering machines may also be used. If your test is for entry to a high-school program, you will watch short videos; you may also be asked to take notes to show how well you understand information about a school activity. The voices will be mainly those of speakers of standard Australian English. There may be some texts with 'broad' Australian or other varieties of English.

Normally you will hear each text only once; occasionally a very short segment may be repeated so that the tester can check your understanding of particular details. With longer texts, you may like to take notes (in any language) while you are listening. With some very short texts, the tester may recommend that you do not take notes. After you have listened to a text, you will show how well you have understood it by talking to the tester about it. While you are talking, you may refer to any notes you have taken, but you must give them to the tester when this part of the test is finished.

Reading

In another part of the interview, the tester will ask you to read a variety of texts. If your test is for entry to a tertiary program, these may be news stories, feature stories, editorials, 'letters to the editor', columnists' opinions, advertisements, or community information (e.g. brochures). There may be some semi-technical material (e.g. from a textbook or special interest magazine). If your test is for entry to a high-school program, there will be material that students in schools read (e.g. rules, factual information for projects, and messages to take home) and possibly a news story or advertisement.

The time allowed for the initial (silent) reading will depend on the length of the text and the kind of information in the text. You will show how well you understand what you have read by talking to the tester. You may refer back to the text if the tester asks you about a particular detail. You will not be allowed to use a dictionary.

Writing

In the Writing test you will be asked to write about 400 words in total. There are usually two tasks; occasionally three tasks are given but the total number of words expected will remain the same. The topic, the type of text, the purpose for writing and the audience to whom you are writing will be different for each task. One of the tasks will be about some general aspect of student life that is relevant to you (e.g. accommodation for international students, or facilities in the academic institution). It is likely to be a letter or a note. In another task, you will be expected to express your opinion(s). If your test is for entry to a tertiary program, the topic will be relevant to the academic discipline or profession you plan to enter (e.g. business or engineering); it is likely to be a report, a personal statement, an essay, an article, or an open letter (e.g. a 'letter to the editor'). If your test is for entry to a high-school program, the topic will be an issue of interest to adolescents; it is likely to be an essay or an article for a school magazine. You will not be allowed to use a dictionary.

How we judge your language

In Speaking and Writing, we are judging the breadth, depth and precision of the ideas you can communicate – including your personal opinions – and the accuracy, range, appropriateness and fluency of the language you use. Your flexibility (ability to cope with tasks and ideas that you have not been practising) is important in both Speaking and Writing.

In Listening and Reading, we are judging how well you understand the information requested. This may include the speaker or writer's intentions and attitudes as well as the general ideas and specific details of the text. Your ability to cope with unfamiliar vocabulary and other features of the language is important. In reading tasks, excessively slow reading will be taken into account.