



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

IELTS information for GPISH and STEP 2020 intake

Do I need to prove my level of English competency?

Yes. All applicants for the STEP and GPISH programmes (intake 2020) must prove their English competency.

If you are a national of an English majority speaking country listed below or have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree taught in the countries listed below, this will demonstrate your English competency.

If you are not a national of an English majority speaking country listed below or have not completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree taught in the countries listed below, you must take a test.

The test you are required to take to prove your English competency is called the **IELTS for UKVI (academic)**.

IELTS stands for the International English Language Testing System

UKVI stands for United Kingdom Visa and Immigration

IELTS for UKVI is the term given to the UK government approved secure English language test. This means that this IELTS can be used to prove your English language abilities in support of a UK visa and immigration application.

Academic refers to the test that must be taken by candidates who want to study at an undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Are there any exceptions to this rule?

All candidates will have to take the **IELTS for UKVI (academic)** unless you are a national of an English majority speaking country listed below or have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree taught in the following countries:

Antigua and Barbuda

Australia

Barbados

Bahamas

Belize

Canada (you are exempt from taking the test only if you are a national of Canada.

However, if you have completed an undergraduate and postgraduate degree in Canada and are not a Canadian national you will be required to take the test)*

Dominica

Grenada

Guyana

Republic of Ireland

Jamaica

New Zealand

St Kitts and Nevis

St Lucia

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Trinidad and Tobago

United Kingdom

United States of America

**If you are a national of an English majority speaking country – as defined by [UKVI](#) – you will not be required to take the test*



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For STEP candidates: please note if you are exempt from taking the IELTS UKVI (academic) due to the fact you have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree taught in an English majority speaking country *but* are not a national of that that country, you also will need to meet the UCL requirement below.

UCL rules state in order to be exempt from the IELTS for UKVI (academic) test you must have completed your undergraduate or postgraduate studies no later than the summer two years prior to the proposed date of enrolment (i.e. Summer 2018 for a 2020 enrolment) otherwise you will be required to take the IELTS test. For further guidance please refer to the UCL website:

[https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/learning-and-living-ucl/international-students/english-language-requirements\(link is external\)](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/learning-and-living-ucl/international-students/english-language-requirements(link%20is%20external)).

Why the IELTS for UKVI (academic) test?

There are many IELTS tests you can take however **IELTS for UKVI (academic)** is the only IELTS qualification that the UKVI will accept for the Tier 4 student visa, so please ensure you take the **IELTS for UKVI (academic)** and not the similarly named IELTS Academic test. The IIS **cannot** accept any other IELTS certificate.

STEP candidates please note the **IELTS for UKVI (academic)** test must have been taken no more than two years before the proposed start date of the programme being applied for: that is, not before September 2018.

GPISH candidates please note that the **IELTS for UKVI (academic)** test must have been taken no more than two years before the issuance of a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS). A CAS is a reference number that the IIS provides in order for you to enter on your Tier 4 visa application to study in the UK. Please note: the earliest a CAS can be issued by the IIS is three months prior to the start of the GPISH course, that is, not before 31 May 2018

How can I book an IELTS for UKVI (academic) test?

Please check this website to book your test <https://www.ielts.org/>

If you reside in **Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Syria** the **IELTS for UKVI (academic) test is sometimes held only every 3 months**. Please ensure you plan and book your test in advance. We will not accept any late applications due to this issue.

Please note

Marketing and the pre-application form will be available and released in June 2019 for STEP and in July 2019 for GPISH [on the IIS website](#).

For any further questions please email admissions@iis.ac.uk

Disclaimer: This information is correct as of **March 2019** but is subject to change as UK immigration laws, UCL rules and IELTS information may alter. The IIS has no control over any changes but will regularly review this information and update our own material accordingly.