

Information for OET candidates

OET is the world's only international English language test specifically for healthcare professionals.

OET results can be used for registration, immigration, education and training.

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency in the US, the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Dubai, Namibia, Ukraine, Malta and Singapore for registration in 12 healthcare professions.

OET results may also be used in the UK, Australia and New Zealand for visas and immigration.

Is OET the right test for me?

OET tests internationally educated healthcare professionals from the following 12 professions:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| > Dentistry | > Dietetics |
| > Occupational Therapy | > Optometry |
| > Podiatry | > Radiography |
| > Medicine | > Nursing |
| > Pharmacy | > Physiotherapy |
| > Speech Pathology | > Veterinary Science |

Why should I take OET?

OET is the only test specifically for your profession!

- > You'll know what to expect and feel more confident on test day because OET reflects real healthcare scenarios
- > When preparing for OET, you'll be learning the language and communication skills you'll need to succeed in your career
- > It's easy to prepare for the test using OET's preparation resources, most of which are online and free
- > OET is highly recommended by healthcare professionals just like you!

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

Healthcare 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

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, Canada, Dubai, Namibia, Singapore, Malta and the Ukraine.

Visas and Immigration

OET results may be used for visas and immigration in:

- > Australia
- > The UK
- > New Zealand

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 subtests 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.



Writing
(45 mins)

Write a profession-specific letter of referral or discharge; or a letter to inform or advise a patient / carer / group.



Speaking
(45 mins)

Profession-specific scenario role-plays with an interlocutor who plays the part of a patient / relative / carer.



Reading
(60 mins)

Complete a health related summary paragraph and multiple choice questions on a longer health-related text.



Listening
(50 mins)

Take notes on a recorded professional consultation and a range of questions on a health-related talk.

Where can I take OET?

OET is available at test venues world-wide. For dates and locations, visit www.occupationalenglishtest.org/test-dates

How do I book my test?

You book OET via the website. You will find all the information you need to book 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. 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 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 @OfficialOET
- > A wide range of preparation videos on the OET Youtube channel
- > A series of emails to guide you through preparation once you've booked the test
- > Healthcare Communication bulletin to support you in the early years of your international career

For purchase

- > OET Ready Online course
- > A range of books and ebooks
- > Courses and classes provided by official OET Preparation Providers
- > For more information on OET preparation material, visit: www.occupationalenglishtest.org/prepare

How will I receive my results?

Log in to your secure online profile to see your results.

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.

OET Grade	OET Score	OET Band Descriptors	IELTS equivalent	CEFR equivalent
A	450-500	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	350-440	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+	300 - 340	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	200 - 290		5.5 - 6.0	
D	100 - 190	Can maintain some interaction and understand straight forward 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	0 - 90	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.		

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.

Have a question? Contact us

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www.occupationalenglishtest.org/helpdesk