

POLICY

Acceptance of ISLPR: It is your responsibility to check whether the institution or organisation to which you are applying will accept the ISLPR and what conditions they set.

Part tests: You may take a part test (i.e. one, two or three skills) but if you plan to combine results from different testing systems (e.g. ISLPR and IELTS) or from ISLPR tests taken on different occasions, you should check with the institution whether they will accept combinations and what conditions they set. **NB: Separate certificates will be issued for ISLPR tests conducted on different days. Results from different tests cannot be combined onto one certificate.**

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

Results: Results for tests conducted at our office are generally ready within five working days after the test. On or before the fifth working day, the statement of results will be posted to the mail address that you have written on the application form. If you wish to collect your results in person, you must tell our Administration 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 Administration 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 our Administration Officer.

Tutorials: Individual tutorials are available to help you prepare for your test.

Feedback: Feedback is available if you wish to find out what is wrong with your English and what you should do to improve it.

CONDITIONS

- € You must pay the fee when you submit the form. Please note that the fees below apply to tests conducted at our office.
- € If you wish to **cancel your test** and you notify our Administration Officer no later than 4:30 pm **seven business days** before the booked test date (or, if the test date has not been finalised, seven business days before the Friday of the preferred week), the test fee will be refunded, less an administration charge of \$100 (incl. GST). If you do not give seven business days advance notice, no refund will be given.
- € If you wish to **change the date or time of a booked test**, notify our Administration Officer no later than 4:30 pm **seven business days** before the test date. If you do not give seven business days advance notice, you must pay an administration charge of \$100 (incl. GST).
- € If you **arrive late** for your test, you may be required to re-book and pay an administration charge of \$100 (incl. GST).
- € On your test day, you must present your **passport**. Other forms of identification may be acceptable under certain conditions (check your appointment letter). Your photograph will be taken at the time of the test and will be 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 our Administration Officer. For payment in person at our office (see address and hours below), the preferred method is by Debit Card (EFTPOS) or credit card. You can also apply online on our webpage www.islpr.org and pay by PayPal or bank transfer (contact our office for details) or by credit card if you telephone our office on 07 3420 0806.

by mail

ISLPR Language Services
PO Box 370
MT GRAVATT QLD 4122

in person (between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday to Friday)

First floor (upstairs)
9 Gowrie Street (off Logan Road)
MT GRAVATT QLD 4122

by credit card

Phone 07 3420 0806

on-line

Visit our website
www.islpr.org

Test fees for applications received at our office March 2018. (Please see following page about extra costs for tests conducted outside Brisbane.)

TEST FEES

| | |
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| Test of any 3 or 4 skills | AUD \$350 (incl. GST) |
| Test of any 2 skills | AUD \$270 (incl. GST) |
| Test of Speaking, Listening or Reading only | AUD \$270 (incl. GST) |
| Test of Writing only | AUD \$210 (incl. GST) |

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

For further information, please contact our Administration Officer by mail or in person (addresses above), or
Phone +61 (0)7 3420 0806 Fax +61 (0)7 3420 0806 Email info@islpr.org or go to www.islpr.org

Privacy ISLPR LANGUAGE SERVICES collects stores and uses personal information only for the purposes of administering tests, training testers, teaching, research and distributing research publications. The information collected is confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without your consent, except when required under Australian law.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ISLPR TESTS

- € **Where can I take a test?**
Tests are usually conducted at our Brisbane office. 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 may increase to cover travel, accommodation expenses and venue hire.
- € **When can I take a test at the ISLPR LANGUAGE SERVICES office at Mt Gravatt?**
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 5:00 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. We are very busy at critical periods in the academic year (e.g. the weeks before the start of semesters or direct entry programs); so, if you want a test at these periods, you should apply early.
- € **Can I take only a part of a test?**
You may take a part test (i.e. one, two or three skills) but, if you plan to combine results from different testing systems (e.g. ISLPR and IELTS) or from ISLPR tests taken on different occasions, you should check with the institution or other organisation whether they will accept combinations and what conditions they set. **NB: Separate certificates will be issued for ISLPR tests conducted on different days. Results from different tests cannot be combined onto one certificate.**
- € **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 will have 60 minutes to write. A part test takes less time.
- € **How quickly can I get my result?**
Test results are generally ready within five working days. See the POLICY page for details.
- € **How are test results reported?**
Results are reported in a written statement. You will receive a profile (e.g. Speaking: 3 Listening: 3 Reading: 2+ 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 \$25 (incl. GST) per statement. Advance notice of at least two working days is normally required. Unless the results are to be sent directly to the address you originally gave on your application, you will be required to produce ID when you request the additional statement of results.
- € **If my levels are not high enough, how long should I wait before re-taking the test?**
It takes time for proficiency to improve, so we recommend that you wait a minimum of four weeks between tests.
- € **Can I get feedback on my test?**
Yes, please contact our Administration Officer and fill out the feedback application form.
- € **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 therefore provide tutorials and guidelines (see the following page) but we have not published examples. A tutorial is the best way to learn about the test.
- € **How can I prepare for my test?**
Practise using English in a wide range of real-life situations. Focus especially on the language of your academic discipline, teaching field or vocational or other interests. Reading and listening to authentic texts (e.g. Australian newspapers and radio programs) are very important.

We offer individual tutorials to familiarise applicants with the ISLPR test method. Ask our Administration Officer for details and fill in the tutorial application form.

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) or practising test-taking tricks.

GUIDELINES FOR TESTS FOR OVERSEAS-TRAINED TEACHERS

We have developed an approach to testing that focuses on the English language used by teachers in their roles as practitioners and professionals in Australian society. The focus is especially on your practical ability in using English.

The form and content of the test

Speaking, Listening and Reading skills are tested in a one-to-one interview that takes about 60 minutes. The 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.

Three things determine the content of the test: everyday life in Australia, everyday life in an Australian school, and your field in education.

Speaking

Speaking skills are judged throughout the interview. The first part of the interview (about 15 minutes) is a conversation including education-related topics. The tester is likely to ask you to talk about some aspect of your personal experience and to discuss issues related to education and the socialisation of young people.

Listening

Listening skills are judged throughout the interview. In one part of the interview, however, audio or video recordings will also be used. You will listen to authentic texts related to education and the socialisation of young people. After you have listened to a text, you will demonstrate your comprehension by talking to the tester about it. You may choose to take notes as an aid to memory. The tester may check your comprehension of a section of a text and then resume playing the tape. Generally any text is heard only once; occasionally a short segment may be repeated so that the tester can check your comprehension of certain key details. The texts may be news stories, news commentaries, interviews, talk-back, documentary material, community announcements or advertisements. The voices will be mainly those of speakers of standard Australian English but there may be segments with other varieties of English. The tester is also likely to ask you to listen to children speaking.

Reading

In another part of the interview, you will read a variety of texts related to education and the socialisation of young people. You will demonstrate your understanding of a text by talking to the tester about it. Texts may be selected from such materials as the following: curriculum materials (e.g. syllabuses or text-books), research reports, material from the mass media or professional journals (e.g. news stories, feature stories, editorials, 'letters to the editor', columnists' opinions, articles, reviews), community information (e.g. brochures), advertisements, or material related to conditions of employment (e.g. newsletters from an employer or union). The time allowed for the reading will depend on the type and length of the text, with some flexibility to account for individual differences in reading speed. You may make notes, underline, or use a highlighter as you read. You may refer back to the text while you talk to the tester. Dictionary use is not allowed.

You will also be asked to read aloud a short text. This is likely to be a notice for students, or a section of one of the reading texts.

Writing

You will write two texts, totalling about 400 words, in 60 minutes. At least one of the texts will be directly related to teaching practice. The audience is likely to be students, parents, colleagues or other members of the school community, or officers in the education system. The other task will be a memo, report, article, submission or open letter (e.g. a 'letter to the editor' of a newspaper) in which you might be expected to express opinions about education. Dictionary use is not allowed. Generally tasks will relate to the sorts of tasks teachers could be expected to undertake.

How we judge your language

In **Speaking and Writing**, we judge the accuracy, range, appropriateness and fluency of the language you use and how well the ideas you communicate – including your personal opinions – match the requirements of the tasks you are given. 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 judge how well you understand the information or other ideas presented. This may include the speaker's 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 but there is also some flexibility, as in real life.