

Using *TOEFL iBT*® Scores for Skilled Migration in Australia



Frequently Asked Questions

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INTRODUCTION

Australia's applicants for skilled migration 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 150 countries.

FAQS GENERAL

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

TOEFL iBT test scores are accepted for all visa subclasses of skilled migration and post-study work visas. The Department of Home Affairs website (www.homeaffairs.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 improves access to potential employees globally and makes 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 nonprofit 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 150 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 organizational 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. These score comparisons were used by the Department of Home Affairs 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 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.

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.

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. For the Speaking and Writing sections, the TOEFL iBT test uses a combination of artificial intelligence (AI) marking and human marking. AI marking can assess certain linguistic dimensions of language use and human markers can attend to a wider variety of features, such as response effectiveness, quality of ideas and content as well as form. Combining human judgment and AI scoring ensures consistent, high-quality measurement of a test taker's ability to communicate and succeed in academic settings.

Multiple markers are used to determine the Speaking and Writing section scores. Each Speaking and Writing response is rated by both a human marker and the AI marking tool — for a total of eight ratings for Speaking and four for Writing. Human 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.

Scoring leaders actively monitor all markers during the scoring process to maintain consistency across markers and across test events. Markers see and hear worldwide responses, not just those from one country. Markers 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 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. 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/. Test takers can also register via the TOEFL® Official App, which can be downloaded free from the App Store® or Google Play™.

9. Where can a test taker sit the TOEFL iBT test?

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 4,000 test centres in 165 countries. Test locations are found at www.ets.org/toefl/locations.

Australian TOEFL iBT test centres currently are located in Brisbane, Cairns, Jimboomba, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, with more centres planned. The test is given on a single day and takes about three hours. With check in, the test taker should plan to be at the test site for about three-and-a-half hours.

10. How quickly are TOEFL iBT scores available after testing?

Scores are available approximately six 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.

11. 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 Home Affairs 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 three-day period. This allows for testing on consecutive weekends, if needed, as available dates permit.

12. How can I access TOEFL preparation materials?

The most popular free TOEFL prep resource is the six-week massive open online course (MOOC) titled "TOEFL Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide." In this self-paced course, participants will learn everything they need to know about preparing for the TOEFL test, including tips for improving their skills, navigating the test structure and preparing for test day. Get more info and enroll at www.ets.org/toefl/insidersguide.

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/>.

A complete list of official practice materials can be found at www.toeflgoanywhere.org/toefl-practice.

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. Test takers can request accommodations through their TOEFL iBT online account. For detailed information about accommodations, go to www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/disabilities.

14. Where can I find more TOEFL iBT resources?

TOEFL Australia website: www.ets.org/toefl/australia

TOEFL/IELTS research: www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/scores/compare

TOEFL iBT test preparation: www.toeflgoanywhere.org/toefl-practice
 TOEFL MOOC (six-week prep course): www.ets.org/toefl/insidersguide
 TOEFL Practice Online: <http://toeflpractice.ets.org/>

REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

Organisation Name	Purpose of Approval	TOEFL Score Requirements				
		Total	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
CPA Australia Institute of Chartered Accountants Australasia (ACCA)	Professional Registration – General Skills	n/a	24	24	23	27
Institute of Public Accountants, Australia (IPA)	Professional Registration – Provisional Assessment	n/a	13	12	18	21
Engineers Australia	Professional Registration	n/a	13	12	18	21
Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI)	Professional Registration	n/a	13	12	18	21
Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA). <i>This covers the following Boards:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical ▪ Nursing & Midwifery ▪ Dental ▪ Psychology ▪ Physiotherapy ▪ Chiropractic ▪ Chinese Medicine ▪ Medical Radiation Technology ▪ Occupational Therapy ▪ Optometry ▪ Osteopathy ▪ Pharmacy ▪ Podiatry 	Professional Registration	94	24	24	23	27
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)	Professional Registration for overseas-based applicants (not AU based)	94	24	24	23	27
Australian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine (ASPSEM)	Professional Registration	n/a	24	24	23	27
Australian Community Workers Association (ACWA)	Professional Registration	94	24	24	23	27
National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)	Course Admission and Registration for Certified Interpreters	n/a	24	22	25	21
Australian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)	Professional Registration	94	24	24	23	27
Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA)	Professional Registration	94	20	20	19	24

Requirements are subject to change without notice. Please consult the organizations' websites for the most current information.

FAQS BY PROFESSION

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 (CA ANZ)**.

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

- CPA Australia: www.cpaaustralia.com.au/become-a-cpa/migration-assessment/australia/english-language-requirements
- IPA: www.publicaccountants.org.au/migration-assessments/english-competency
- CA ANZ: www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/about-us/migration-assessment/australia-immigration/qualification-assessment-criteria/english-language-requirement

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

CPA Australia, IPA and **CA ANZ** require the following minimum scores across the four sections:

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

CPA Australia, IPA and **CA ANZ** require the following minimum scores across the four sections: 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 **CA ANZ** 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/CA ANZ registration that will be used for my skilled or student visa application?

Yes. 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.

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 its website:

www.acwa.org.au/migration-assessment/english-language-requirement.

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

Engineering and Surveying

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 in the Migration Skills Assessment Booklet on the **Engineers Australia** website: www.engineersaustralia.org.au/For-Migrants/Migration-Skills-Assessment/MSA-StepByStep-Guide.

Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) 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 **SSSI** website: <https://sssi.org.au/about-us/what-we-do/migration-skills-development>.

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

SSSI requires the following minimum scores across the four sections of the TOEFL iBT test undertaken in the previous three years:

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

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 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 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 www.aims.org.au/documents/item/88.

The Australian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine (ASPSEM) 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 ASPSEM website at www.acpsem.org.au/whatacpsemdoes/skilled-migration-assessment.

HM-2. Which professions are affected?

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

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

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.

ACPSEM requires the following minimum scores across the four categories:

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

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. **ACPSEM** requires that the scores be achieved in a maximum of two sittings over six months.

HM-5. Can applicants use the same TOEFL test result for AHPRA, ANMAC or ACPSEM 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.

Interpreting and Translating

IT-1. Which professional bodies accept TOEFL iBT scores?

The **National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)** accepts TOEFL iBT test scores to meet its requirements. You can read more about the requirements on the **NAATI** website: www.naati.com.au/certification/certification-prerequisites/english-proficiency/

The NAATI requirements vary by course. For a Certified Interpreter the following minimum scores across the four categories are:

- 22 for Listening
- 24 for Reading
- 25 for Speaking
- 21 for Writing

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: www.mara.gov.au/becoming-an-agent/registration-requirements/english-language/.

The **OMARA** requires a minimum total score of 94, with the following minimum scores across the four categories:

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

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/skills/>.

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

