



Immigration Rules and Nationality Regulations change: removal of Educational Testing Service (ETS) from list of approved providers

On 10 June 2014 a change to the Immigration Rules and Nationality Regulations to remove ETS from the approved list of English language test suppliers was laid before Parliament.

This will come into effect on 1 July 2014.

Students applying from within the UK

Students can apply from within the UK using an ETS certificate if the application is completed and the fee paid before 1 July 2014.

Students using an ETS certificate to support an application to extend their leave in the UK may have their application delayed

Students who wish to withdraw their application and return home can do so, however we won't refund their application fee. They will be given their passport at the port they choose to leave the UK from.

Students applying from overseas

Students applying from overseas can use an ETS certificate to support their application if the application is completed and the fee paid before 22 July 2014.

Students who wish to study in one of the following categories can apply for a visa supported by an ETS certificate if the application is made and the fee is paid before 1 October 2014:

- a pre-session course lasting no longer than 3 months
- a foundation course awarded at a minimum of level 3 on the revised National Qualifications Framework or equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- a foundation degree, at a UK Recognised Body or a body in receipt of public funding as a Higher Education Institution

After these dates, visa applications relying on an ETS certificate will not be accepted.

Students who wish to study at a Higher Education Institution

Overseas students wishing to come to the UK study a degree at Higher Education Institution (HEI) will not be affected by this change, as HEIs can choose their own method of testing these students' English language ability. It is up to the HEI to decide whether to accept ETS certificates as evidence that degree-level students can speak English at the appropriate level.

How to book a secure English language test

If you are applying from the following countries you should use the list of countries without a secure English language test provider to find out information on how to book a secure English language test.

- Aruba
- Benin
- Bermuda
- French Polynesia

- Greenland
- Guam
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Kyrgyzstan
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Netherlands Antilles
- Nicaragua
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Swaziland
- Tajikistan
- Togo
- Virgin Islands
- West Bank

Information for visa applicants

The government wants to ensure that this change does not have an impact on international students who took an Educational Testing Service (ETS) test in good faith.

If you already have your visa

Visa documents which have already been issued to students who took the tests overseas in good faith remain valid.

If you already have an ETS test certificate but do not have your visa

UK Visas and Immigration is currently considering overseas visa applications which include an ETS certificate. These applications will be subject to our normal checks. However, they will only be accepted until the new Immigration Rules come into effect and the transitional provisions, listed above, have come to an end.

If you have made an appointment with ETS but not yet taken your test

Customers who have booked a test with ETS should use another test provider. For more information check the list of new approved English tests.

Who is affected?

This change affects those relying on an ETS certificate in their visa application. It does not affect Higher Education Institutions' ability to choose their own method of assessing degree students' English language competence. This means it will still be up to the university to decide whether to accept an ETS certificate as evidence of a degree student's ability to speak English at the appropriate level, even if the test is taken after the Immigration Rules change.

Settlement and naturalisation applicants

Separate arrangements apply to applications for settlement or naturalisation as a British citizen. Applicants should check our website for full information about the [knowledge of language and life in the UK](#) requirement.