



UK Visas & Immigration

English Language Testing For Settlement and Nationality

You may be aware that new, strengthened arrangements for Secure English Language Tests (SELT) for those seeking limited leave in the UK will begin in April. The new system will mean tests will need to be taken at approved test centres, which will be run by Trinity College London and IELTS SELT Consortia in the UK and IELTS Test Consortia in the rest of the world.

Historically, we have accepted a wider range of English language qualifications for settlement and naturalisation. However, it is important that the immigration system has the same security features across the board in order to limit abuse and that those seeking permanent residence meet the same standards as temporary migrants.

From November 2015, applicants for settlement or naturalisation will also be required to demonstrate their English language skills by taking a test at a test centre on the new SELT list. Other English language qualifications will no longer be accepted for this purpose.

Introducing these changes from November will give those individuals currently studying for an English language qualification the opportunity to make a settlement or naturalisation application using that qualification, as well as ensuring that those starting courses later in 2015 are aware of the changing situation. The requirement will remain a B1 level qualification in speaking and listening.

The changes to language testing will improve standards and provide clearer timeframes for test bookings and results. The testing process will be more secure with measures such as voice testing and mystery shopper events in place to improve the integrity of test results. Additional centres, offering testing on at least a quarterly basis, will also be available outside the UK in areas where there is not a usually a high demand for this service, to make sure customers continue to have easy access to a test centre wherever they are.

For applications for settlement and nationality made before November, we will continue to accept qualifications which are included in the OFQUAL Register of ESOL Qualifications or those regulated by SQA.

Further information on SELT tests can be found on the [SELT pages of GOV.UK](#). Information about the changes for settlement and naturalisation will also be

placed on the website.

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