

# OET

OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

The English language test for  
healthcare professionals



Information for candidates

## What is the Occupational English Test (OET)?

OET is a healthcare-specific English language test. It assesses the language proficiency of healthcare professionals looking to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

### Is OET the right test for me?

OET tests international health practitioners from the following 12 professions:

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

If you have chosen one of these professions, OET is the ideal test for you. It is a significant milestone towards your international career development.

*OET is a practical test with content that reflects real-life tasks performed in the healthcare sector. Taking the test has enabled me to gain a deeper insight into the communication skills required for my occupation.*

Jiarong Yu, Nurse

## Why should I take OET?

- ✓ OET is the English language test designed specifically for healthcare professionals.
- ✓ OET is recognised as proof of English proficiency by health regulators in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Namibia, Singapore and Ukraine for registration.
- ✓ OET is also accepted by the Australian Department of Immigration and Immigration New Zealand for all visa categories where an English language test result may be required, including Skilled Migrant Category.
- ✓ OET helps develop language skills for success in healthcare courses, clinical placement, healthcare registration and the workplace.
- ✓ It's easy to prepare for the test using OET's preparation resources, many of which are online and included in the cost of the test.
- ✓ Recommended by past test takers because OET preparation and test materials reflect real healthcare scenarios, so you'll know what to expect and feel more confident on test day.

*As a health professional, I think OET is the best and most useful English test. It has helped me to develop the English language skills that are vital for a career in Medicine.*

Seyed Riaz Hashemi  
Doctor

## Where and when can I take OET?

OET is available monthly, in over 110 locations in over 40 countries.

For OET test dates and a list of countries and venues where the test is available, visit [www.occupationalenglishtest.org](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org)

## How do I apply for OET?

You apply for OET via our website. You will find all the information you need to apply for OET, including test regulations, guidelines for uploading photos, test costs and how to pay, at [www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply)

## How can I prepare for the test?

### Free material

- Free Start for Success package preparation material. 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 the 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.

### For purchase

- Purchase the OET Online Preparation Course and course materials from OET shop.
- Find a list of endorsed training providers who offer Premium Preparation courses for OET.

For more information on OET preparation material, visit:  
[www.occupationalenglishtest.org/prepare](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/prepare)

## When and how will I receive my results?

Your results will be released approximately 16 business days after the test: log in to your secure online profile to see them.

## How is OET scored?

You will receive a numerical score for each sub-test, ranging from 0 to 500 in ten-point increments (e.g. 350, 360, 370...). The numerical scores will be mapped to a separate letter grade from A (highest) to E (lowest). There is no overall grade. Here are the descriptions for each grade that appears on the Statement of Results:

### OET Results table - effective from 9 September 2018 test date

OET results to August 2018	OET score from September 2018	OET band descriptors	IELTS equivalent band score
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
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
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
C	200 – 290		5.5 – 6.0
D	100 – 190	Can maintain some interaction and understand straightforward 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.	

## Who recognises OET?

### Government departments

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for visas in:

**Australia** | The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) accepts OET for all visa categories where an English test may be required.

Visit [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) for more details.

**New Zealand** | Immigration New Zealand accepts OET for all visa categories where an English test may be required. Visit [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz) for more details.

### Healthcare Boards and Councils

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for registration, accreditation and licensing purposes in:

**Australia** | OET is accepted for registration purposes by most professional Boards within the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and most healthcare profession Councils for accreditation purposes.

**Dubai Healthcare City Authority-Regulatory (DHCR)** | OET is accepted for licensing of healthcare professionals who have not graduated from a program offered in English, nor worked or licensed in a native English speaking country.

**Ireland** | OET is accepted by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland and the Irish Medical Council.

**Namibia** | OET is accepted by the Health Professions Council of Namibia.

**New Zealand** | OET is accepted by most healthcare Boards and Councils in New Zealand.

**Singapore** | OET is accepted by four major healthcare Councils in Singapore.

**UK** | OET is accepted by the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the General Medical Council and several Royal Colleges.

**Ukraine** | OET is accepted by the Ukraine Medical Council.

## 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, education providers and recruiters

OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for employment by healthcare employers, and a growing number of leading educators in:

**Australia** | OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for admission and graduation from healthcare courses at leading universities, TAFEs and colleges in Australia.

**New Zealand** | OET is accepted as proof of English proficiency for admission and graduation from healthcare courses at leading universities and technical colleges.

**For the most up to date list of organisations recognising OET as proof of English proficiency visit:**  
**[www.occupationalenglishtest.org/recognition](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/recognition)**

## How is OET different to general or academic English tests?

OET tests real communication scenarios candidates 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

Health professional to patient role-plays



## What's in the test?

OET covers all four language skills with an emphasis on communication in a healthcare environment. It consists of four sub-tests:

- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking.

The Listening and Reading sub-tests 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 – designed to reflect common tasks performed in the workplace.



# The four components of OET

## Listening sub-test (approximately 40 minutes)

The Listening sub-test consists of three parts:

- **Part A:** Two separate consultations between a healthcare professional and a patient
- **Part B:** Six short dialogues or monologues in workplace settings
- **Part C:** Two long presentations or interviews with health professionals

The content for this sub-test is the same for all candidates irrespective of profession.

## Reading sub-test (60 minutes)

The Reading sub-test consists of three parts:

- **Part A:** An expeditious (fast) reading task
- **Part B:** Six short workplace extracts
- **Part C:** Two long presentation passages

The content for this sub-test is the same for all candidates irrespective of profession.

## Writing sub-test (45 minutes)

You will be asked to write a letter – usually a referral letter, based on case notes. In this letter you should:

- record treatment offered to date
- explain the relevant issues to be addressed (based on given instructions)
- show that you have considered the facts and information
- write 180–200 words, set out in an appropriate format.

The content for this sub-test is profession specific.

## Speaking sub-test (approximately 20 minutes)

This assesses your clinical communication skills. It consists of two simulated consultations between a healthcare professional and a patient. In these role-plays you will take the role of the practitioner and the interviewer plays the patient or patient's relative/carer (or for veterinary science, the animal's owner/carer).

The content for this sub-test is profession specific.

Apply online:

[www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/apply)

Got a question?

Contact us

The OET Centre

PO Box 16136, Collins Street West

VIC 8007

Australia

Tel: +61 3 8656 4000

[www.occupationalenglishtest.org/helpdesk](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/helpdesk)

The Occupational English Test (OET) is designed to meet the specific English language needs of the healthcare sector. It assesses the language proficiency of healthcare professionals who wish to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

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.



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