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IELTS – An overview for FE College Administrators

The Barbican, London

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with

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the British Council

www.ielts.org

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What is IELTS?

- International English Language Testing System
- Jointly managed by the British Council, IDP:IELTS Australia and University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations
- Designed to assess English language ability of people who intend to study or work where English is the language of communication

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What is IELTS *continued*

- Original four-skills English language test
- Test of communicative proficiency in English
- Over 1 million people rely on IELTS every year to access opportunities in study, careers and migration in the English-speaking world and beyond
- 6000+ recognising organisations worldwide

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IELTS Facts and Figures

www.ielts.org

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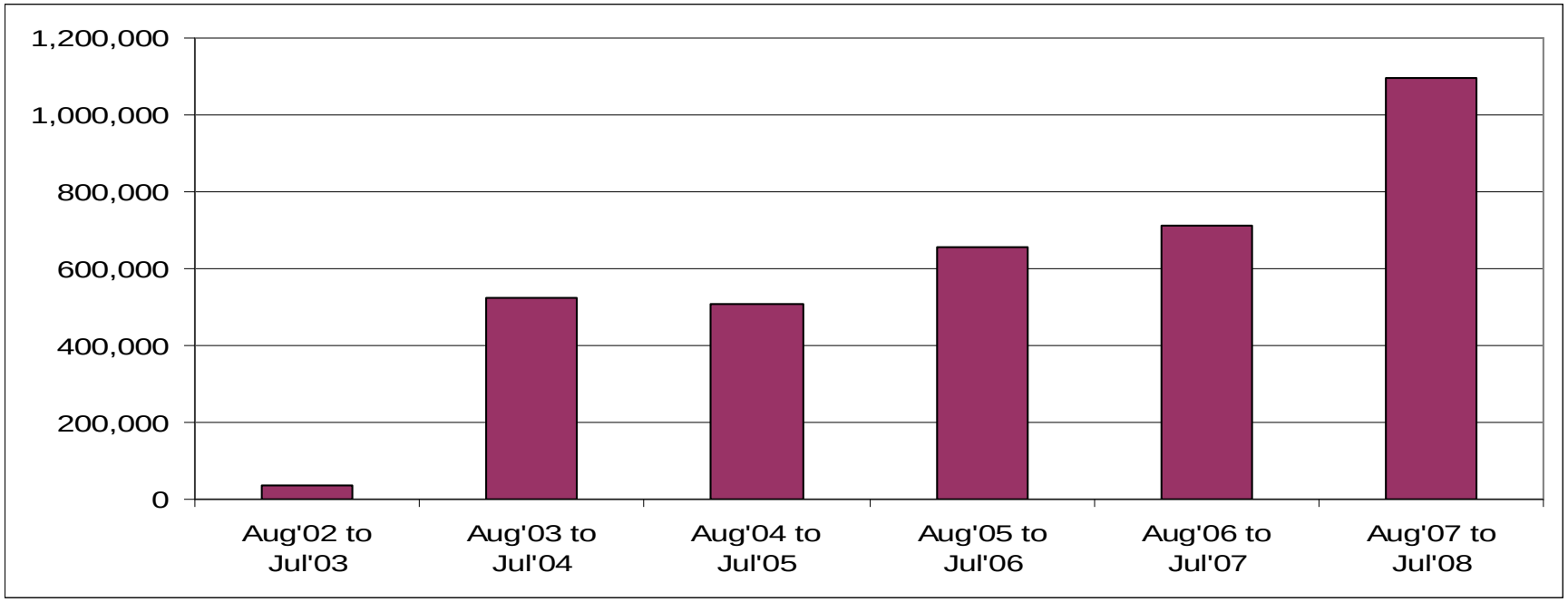
Candidature growth by academic year – August to July



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Test Administration

- Tests administered at centres worldwide
  - More than 500 test centres in 121 countries
  - Full list available on www.ielts.org and British council website page for each country
- Up to 48 fixed test dates per year
- Every effort made to cater for candidate special requirements
- Results available 13 days after test
- No restrictions on re-taking test

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General or Academic IELTS?

- Listening and speaking same for both, reading and writing differ
- General
  - For immigration, vocational, secondary education, language training and work experience
  - Reading and writing questions assess survival skills in a broad social and educational context
- Academic
  - For entry to University / College / professional registration
  - Reading and writing questions assess ability to study or train in medium of English at undergraduate or postgraduate level

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Test format

Listening
30 minutes, 4 sections, 40 items

Academic Reading
60 minutes, 3 sections, 40 items

General Training Reading
60 minutes, 3 sections, 40 items

Academic Writing
60 minutes, 2 tasks

General Training Writing
60 minutes, 2 tasks

Speaking
11 - 14 minutes, 3 parts

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Question Paper development and Research

- Backed by extensive programme of research, validation and test development
- Test papers constructed over 6 stages
- Writing and editing takes place in the USA, Australia, New Zealand, and the UK
- Topics or language context which may introduce a bias against any group are avoided

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Examining

- Examiners are supported by the IELTS **Professional Support Network** - a system of recruitment, training, certification, standardisation and continuous monitoring to support Examiners and ensure a high standard of expertise is maintained.

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How are IELTS results reported?

9 band scores:

9 – expert user
8 – very good user
7 – good user
6 – competent user
5 – modest user
4 – limited user
3 – extremely limited user
2 – intermittent user
1 – non user

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Interpretation of results

- Candidates can apply for re-marking (Enquiry On Results)
- Candidates are issued one copy of the Test Report Form (TRF)
- Candidates can request test centres to send their TRF to recognising organisations on their behalf
- TRFs are valid for 2 years as they cannot be verified after that time

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Destination of Candidates (Academic) 2008

1. Australia
2. UK
3. Other
4. USA
5. Canada
6. New Zealand
7. Ireland

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Destination of Candidates (General Training) 2008

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. UK
4. Other
5. New Zealand
6. USA
7. Ireland

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Security – *before the test*

- 48 fixed test dates a year
- Unique test for each date
- Test material production controls – despatch and tracking

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Security – *before the test cont.*

- Test centre management
- Stock control systems and documentation
- Registration ID and candidate checks

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Security – *during the test*

- Trained administrators
- Trained invigilators, examiners and clerical markers
- Test day security regulations
- More ID checks!

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Security – *after the test*

- Examiner marking procedures
- Double entry, jagged profiles & targeted monitoring
- Test Report Form (TRF) sent directly to receiving institutions

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Test Report Form

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM

Test Report Form — GENERAL TRAINING

NOTE *Admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses should be based on the ACADEMIC Reading and Writing Modules. GENERAL TRAINING Reading and Writing Modules are **not** designed to test the full range of language skills required for academic purposes. It is recommended that the candidate's language ability as indicated in this Test Report Form be re-assessed **after two years** from the date of the test.*

Centre Number: IR008 | Date: 19/JUN/2004 | Candidate Number: 001129

Candidate Details

Family Name: Smith

First Name: Andrew

Candidate ID: PP 123 456 789

Date of Birth: 01/03/1952 | Sex (M/F): M | Scheme Code: Client Funded

Country of Origin: Kazakhstan | First Language: Fulani

Repeating IELTS (Y/N): Y | Previous Test Date: 18/JUN/2003 | Previous Test Centre: BC Tehran

Test Results

Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall Band Score
6.5	5.5	6	6	6.0

Administrator Comments

Centre stamp | Validation stamp

Writing Examiner Number: 998735 | Administrator's Signature

Speaking Examiner Number: 999015 | Date: 05/03/2005 | Test Report Form Number: 04IR001129SMIA008G

The validity of this IELTS Test Report Form can be verified online by recognising organisations at https://ielts.ucles.org.uk

www.ielts.org

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TRF online verification service

- The free, online IELTS Test Report Form verification service allows you to authenticate IELTS Test Report Forms in a quick, easy and reliable way.
- Recognising organisations with access to the service can not carry out general searches of the data we hold; they can only search on a specific TRF number.

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TRF Administrators and Users

- Each registered organisation has a nominated TRF Administrator
- Administrators have rights to be able to add their colleagues as Users of the service
- All other rights are the same

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Using TRF verification service

- Log in and click on TRF Query
- Enter applicant's TRF number
- Match or no match?
- No match – send all TRF details to IELTS TRF VERIFICATION for investigation (ieltstrfforward@CambridgeEsol.org)
- Older than 2 years can not be verified

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Thank you for your questions

For further information, please contact

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