

# GETTING READY

## Language Test

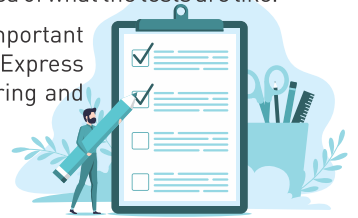
To prove language proficiency, each applicant must take an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam, a Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP) exam, or a Test d'Évaluation Français (TEF) exam. Results from one of these exams help Visa Officers determine whether the applicant has sufficient English or French language ability for proper integration into Canadian society and the Canadian workforce. To demonstrate English language ability, IELTS or CELPIP results must be submitted so that the Visa Officer will be able to objectively evaluate the language category of the applicant. IELTS or CELPIP results are considered the only conclusive proof of English language proficiency.

To gain points for language proficiency under the Quebec Skilled Worker Program, test results must be submitted for French and/or English. For more information on recognized French tests, see this page.

To enroll for an IELTS examination, you will need to contact your local IELTS test centre to find out the dates when you will be able to take your test and what the cost will be. Download and complete the application form and send it the local IELTS centre along with your photos, a copy of your identification and your payment.

Many people take preparation courses before they take the IELTS to ensure that they receive as high a score as possible. You can also take free IELTS practice tests to get an idea of what the tests are like.

The IELTS test is the single MOST important tool in improving your points in Express entry. Spend Adequate time preparing and practicing to ensure you do well.



## About the IELTS

The IELTS consists of four parts: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. The whole test lasts 2 hours and 45 minutes and can be completed in one day. The speaking component can also be taken up to seven days before or after the other three components (at the discretion of the test centre).

### LISTENING

The listening component lasts for **30 minutes** and consists of **four audio clips** that you must listen to and **answer questions** about:

- **Conversation:** Two speakers
- **Monologue**
- **Conversation:** Four speakers
- **Lecture**

You can read the questions and familiarize yourself with the question types before you listen to the recordings.

**Listen carefully, as the recordings are played only once.**



### READING

The reading component lasts for **60 minutes** and consists of **three passages** you will read and **answer questions** about:

**You will be asked to:**

- **Identify attitudes and perceptions**
- **Find detailed information**
- **Complete a diagram**

The texts are typically taken from books, newspapers, magazines, and journals.



### WRITING

The Writing component lasts for **60 minutes** and consists of **two tasks**.

**You will need to:**

- **Write a descriptive report** of a table or diagram or a letter **[150 words]**
- **Write an essay** in response to a statement **[250 words]**

**Be sure to read the question carefully before composing your text.**



### SPEAKING

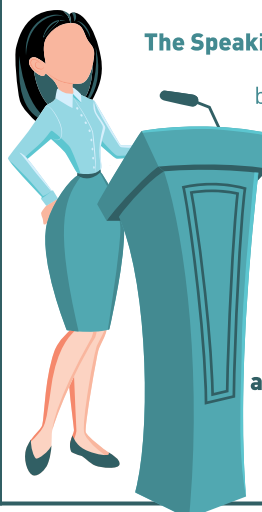
The Speaking component lasts for **10–15 minutes**.

It is a **face-to-face interview** between the candidate and the examiner.

**It consists of:**

- **Introduction and interview**
- **Individual talk**
- **Discussion topics**

**Try to speak fluently, using appropriate grammar, and demonstrate a range of vocabulary. Always try to support your opinions and answer the questions with more than "yes" or "no".**



# EDUCATION CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT

## What is It?

An Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) is used to verify that your foreign degree, diploma, or certificate (or other proof of your credential) is valid and equal to a Canadian one. There are different types of ECAs. You need to get an ECA for immigration purposes. If you got another type of ECA, you may be able to get it re-issued, depending on the type of ECA and/or issuing organization.

You must include your ECA report and the reference number in your Express Entry profile.

## Who needs One?

If you completed your education outside Canada, you need an assessment to:

- be eligible as the principal applicant for Federal Skilled Workers Program (Express Entry), or
- earn points for education you got outside Canada

You can also earn points for your spouse or common-law partner's education, if they are coming with you to Canada.

You don't need an assessment for a Canadian degree, diploma or certificate.

To earn points, your report must show that your completed foreign credential (degree, diploma or certificate) is equal to a completed Canadian secondary school (high school) or post-secondary credential.

## Which Credentials to get Assessed

In most cases, you only need an assessment for your highest level of education.

For example, if you have a Master's degree, you only need an assessment for that degree. You don't need one for your Bachelor's degree.

### When to get an assessment for 2 or more credentials

- To get points for having 2 or more credentials, you need an assessment for each one.
- To get full points for more than 1 credential, at least 1 of the credentials must be for 3 or more years of study.
- The order that you complete your credentials does not affect points.

### When to get your secondary education assessed

- If your post-secondary credential is not equal to a Canadian credential, you could get your secondary credential assessed. This would get you points for completing secondary school.



## Where to get One?

You must get your assessment from an organization or a professional body designated by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. They will give you a report that tells you what your education is equal to in Canada.

Processing times and costs may vary by organization or professional body.

Once you choose a designated organization or a professional body, they will tell you how to submit your documents to get your assessment.

## Designated Organizations

You must use one of these Designated Organizations:

- **Comparative Education Service – University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies**
- **International Credential Assessment Service of Canada**
- **World Education Services**
- **International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)**
- **International Credential Evaluation Service**

## Choosing a Designated Organization based on your Occupations to get Assessed

If you plan to **work** for a **large employer** or in a **regulated occupation**, you may **need** to have **your assessment** done by a **specific designated organization**. Check with your employer or the regulatory body for your occupation for more information.