

RESEARCH

For more than 40 years, ETS has made research the foundation for the TOEFL® test. We have published more than 150 peer-reviewed research reports, numerous books, journal articles and book chapters to support test design and validity, so you know that when you use TOEFL iBT® scores, you can be confident that applicants have the English language skills they need for success.

“Now, after a decade of research and development, I am certain that the TOEFL iBT test is as valid, comprehensive and reliable an indicator as can be expected from an internationally administered test of students’ abilities to perform competently in English at universities or colleges.”

Alister Cumming
Professor and Head
Centre for Educational Research on Languages and Literacies, Ontario
Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada
TOEFL Board Member

Validity built into test design

In designing the TOEFL iBT test, we have drawn on a solid research and development base, in-depth needs analyses to identify the communication skills critical for academic success, and extensive input from English language experts. We have built validity into the test design from the beginning.

Ongoing research ensures high-quality scores

As test methods and content for the TOEFL test continue to evolve, we repeatedly re-examine test validity, fairness and reliability. Our continuous strong commitment to research ensures the quality of the TOEFL iBT scores for you to make accurate admissions decisions.

Practical research supports user needs

We have aggressively supported research to investigate test takers’ and test users’ reactions to the TOEFL iBT test to ensure that our test meets the needs of our users.

Standing behind our claims

Our extensive peer-reviewed ETS research and independent research by leading experts gives us the confidence to stand behind our claims that TOEFL iBT test scores reflect the actual communication skills of test takers in an academic setting.

SCORING

The TOEFL® test offers the fairest, most unbiased and objective scoring. Make the best decisions about international applicants with the most reliable English language test that truly measures the English communication skills needed for academic success.

A combination of human and automated scoring

The Writing section of the TOEFL iBT® test uses a combination of human and automated scoring, which allows for the consistency of computer scoring coupled with the quality judgment of human raters. The Speaking section is scored exclusively by human raters.

Rigorously trained and monitored raters

TOEFL raters are rigorously trained, pass a certification test and are calibrated daily. Their work is continuously monitored for accuracy by scoring leaders and ETS staff.

Scoring processes that ensure score quality and integrity

Test responses are scored anonymously by a centralized network of raters, not by a single rater at the testing site, for truly fair and objective scoring. Multiple raters’ judgments contribute to each test taker’s Speaking and Writing scores in order to minimize rater bias and increase score reliability.

“The TOEFL test is the best researched language test in the world.”

Tim McNamara
Professor
School of Languages and Linguistics
The University of Melbourne, Australia

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

ETS, the maker of the TOEFL® test, is committed to helping you be successful in attracting more highly qualified students from around the world. We make it easier to do this by providing a variety of additional services that can help you interpret scores and also promote your institution to an international audience.



“My team often visits colleges and universities to discuss the services we offer. It’s not just about providing the best English language assessment. We want to help institutions know how to use TOEFL scores well so they can make the best admissions decisions. We also have services to help institutions raise their profile with students in more than 180 countries.”

Eileen Tyson
Executive Director
Global Client Relations, ETS

The TOEFL eNewsletter

Stay up to date on TOEFL test announcements, scholarships, services for students, research information, the TOEFL test in the news, assessment expert interviews and more.

Speech Samples

Use this free service to listen to an applicant’s spoken response to an integrated speaking task.

Standard-setting CD

The CD provides test taker responses at various levels, as well as a process that universities can use for setting score requirements that will reflect their own unique needs.

Test and Score Data Summary

ETS provides test performance data based on a variety of criteria, including the reasons for taking the test, native language and geographic region and native country.

For more information on using these services, visit www.ets.org/toefl/institutions.

Institution Search Tools

We make it easy for students to find institutions that accept TOEFL scores with our advanced online search and our TOEFL Destinations Directory. If your institution accepts TOEFL scores, you’ll be listed in both and have the opportunity to include important information students want to know — including program information and minimum score requirements. Both tools are available on our student website, www.toeflgoanywhere.org.

TOEFL® TV Channel on YouTube®

Promote your institution on the TOEFL® TV channel on YouTube® by providing a video of tips for students, or an overview of your university and how you use the TOEFL test.

View the TOEFL TV channel on YouTube at www.youtube.com/toeflTV.

“TOEFL assists us in recruiting qualified students and is important to the admissions process.”

Pauline Antrobus
Graduate Admissions Coordinator
University of Essex, United Kingdom

ACCEPT TOEFL SCORES

When you accept TOEFL scores, you join more than 8,000 institutions worldwide and have access to millions of students in 180 countries.

It’s easy to start accepting TOEFL scores.
Sign up today at www.ets.org/toefl/getscores.

STUDENT RESOURCES

We make it easier for students to do their best on the TOEFL® test and plan their study abroad experiences with a wealth of tools and resources.

Planning and Preparation Resources

TOEFLGoAnywhere.org — our student-focused website — is geared to help them find the information they need to help them do their best on the test. The site is available in three languages — English, Chinese and Korean.

The TOEFL Journey™ Program is a free, interactive resource that provides customized information to help students through every stage of planning their study abroad experience.

TOEFL Scholarships recognize high-achieving students from selected countries who demonstrate outstanding English language ability.

Test Prep Resources

TOEFL iBT® Test Sample Questions are free and help students review the kinds of questions they'll encounter on test day.

The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test offers students full-length practice tests, real sample responses and actual raters' comments.

TOEFL® Practice Online has the only official practice tests that give students the experience of taking the real TOEFL iBT test. Students will be able to review and answer authentic test questions and get instant scores and feedback on all four skills measured on the test — reading, listening, speaking and writing.

TOEFL® Value Packs offer our most popular official test prep and other extras while saving students up to 35%.

Test Prep Videos, including the *Meet the Study Group* video series, help students prepare for the test by providing tips for each test section, highlighting helpful resources and showing what a TOEFL iBT test center is like.



“For international students, the TOEFL test score is a passport for entry to universities in any of the major English-speaking destination countries.”

Jeffrey Smart
Provost Chancellor, International
Swinburne University of Technology, Australia
TOEFL Board Member

ABOUT ETS

At nonprofit ETS, we advance quality and equity in education for people worldwide by creating assessments based on rigorous research. ETS serves individuals, educational institutions and government agencies by providing customized solutions for teacher certification, English language learning, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, as well as conducting education research, analysis and policy studies. Founded in 1947, ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including the TOEFL® and TOEIC® tests, the GRE® tests and *The Praxis Series*™ assessments — in more than 180 countries. www.ets.org.

Learn more at www.ets.org/toefl/institutions

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