



FAQs for Higher Education Institutions

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FAQs for Higher Education Institutions

If you are a member of a higher education institution and want to learn more about *Skills for English*, please read these FAQs.

If your institution would like to recognize *Skills for English*, please contact recognitions@skillsforenglish.com.

Skills for English General Questions

What is Skills for English?

Skills for English is a suite of English language proficiency tests. They are recognized by a growing number of higher education institutions for entry into their academic courses, including members of the prestigious Russell Group in the UK.

Skills for English tests have been approved by governments, too: *Skills for English: SELT* for student visa applications to the UK Home Office and both *Skills for English: SELT* and *Skills for English: Global* for study visa applications to the Irish Department of Justice.

How are Skills for English tests mapped to the CEFR?

Skills for English: SELT is directly mapped to the CEFR in terms of content, test levels, and score reporting. A *Skills for English* test will only contain questions aimed at a specific level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR). The overarching test design was approved by UK ENIC.

How do you map results in Skills for English to other English language tests?

Skills for English results are mapped to and communicated in the language of the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR), which goes from A1 to C2 level (and includes B1+ and B2+). Please see our [result comparisons with other English language qualifications here](#).

What results are available for Skills for English tests?

Test takers receive results per skill and overall. Scores are reported as Pass/Fail, and additionally, 'Pass with Merit' at B1 or B2 levels. The Pass with Merit results at B1 and B2 were independently reviewed and approved by Ecctis as accurately mapping to the B1+ and B2+ CEFR descriptors.

To receive an overall Pass with Merit, a test taker must achieve a Pass with Merit in every skill; to fail, a test taker need only fail in a single skill (for example: if a test taker fails the Speaking section, they could receive a Pass in all other sections but still receive a Fail overall).

What's the difference between Skills for English: SELT and Skills for English: Global?

Aside from *Skills for English: Global* not being a SELT, there is only one other major difference between *Skills for English: SELT* and *Skills for English: Global*. While both tests can be taken in one of PSI's secure test centres approved by the UK Government, only *Skills for English: Global* can be taken at home with the invigilation of online proctors. This enables test takers to have the reliability of our mapping to CEFR, with the same content and test levels, the same ease and simplicity of one-session test delivery; and the same fast turn-around of results at 3-5 days on average – only now also secure test-taking in the comfort of their own homes.

How much do Skills for English tests cost?

Prices for *Skills for English: SELT* and *Skills for English: Global* vary by test level and on a geographical basis. Our tests are affordable for test takers and competitively priced against other English language test providers.

Where can Skills for English tests be taken?

As part of *Skills for English: SELT*'s agreement with the UK Home Office, all *Skills for English: SELT* tests must be taken in a UK Home Office-approved test centre.

Skills for English: Global can be taken in either a test centre, or at home, where PSI's gold-standard online proctoring technology assures security.

As a test delivered and owned by PSI, a global, high stakes testing company with over 70 years' experience, *Skills for English* is available to take in over 200 test centres in over 120 countries, with a particular focus in China and India. This number of test centres is continually growing, and can be tracked by visiting the [UK Government's secure English language testing website](#).

Are practice materials available for Skills for English test takers?

Because test content for both *Skills for English: SELT* and *Skills for English: Global* is the same, the practice materials differ very little. Please see practice materials for *Skills for English: SELT* and [Skills for English: Global](#).

How are Skills for English tests marked?

Answers to speaking and writing questions on *Skills for English* tests are marked by our team of human markers, who have no visibility of a test taker's identity, location, or nationality, which assures an absence of bias. Listening and reading questions are automatically computer marked to ensure even more objectivity.

Skills for English: SELT Questions

What does 'SELT' mean?

The acronym 'SELT' stands for 'secure English language test' and refers to a unique set of specially selected English tests approved by the UK Government for visa applications because they meet a standard for test content and secure delivery. There are two kinds of SELT: ones that can only be taken in the UK, and ones that can only be taken outside the UK. *Skills for English: SELT* is the latter. *Skills for English: Global* is not a SELT.

How has Skills for English: SELT been validated?

Skills for English: SELT was formed out of a collaboration between PSI, a global, high-stakes psychometrics and assessment delivery company, and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), a world leader in certification and assessment. All *Skills for English: SELT* test content was designed in collaboration with and assured by the SQA. Our tests have been approved by UK NARIC, and Eccis conducted an independent report validifying the

mapping of our B1 and B2 Pass with Merit results to the Common European Framework of Reference for Language descriptors for B1+ and B2+.

Which institutions accept Skills for English: SELT?

Skills for English: SELT is accepted by a wealth of higher education institutions across the UK. A [full list of these institutions can be found here](#). They include: the University of Exeter, the University of Bristol, the University of Southampton, and the University of St Andrew's.

How is Skills for English: SELT secure?

The SELT status of *Skills for English*, which was awarded by the UK Visas and Immigration department of the Home Office, binds it to several governmentally overseen contractual agreements assuring the security of our tests. All SELTs, as a rule, must be taken in a test centre approved by the Home Office, and any employees delivering SELTs must also have received security clearance.

Test security is assured throughout the test-taking experience. All test takers on arrival have their governmental ID or passport checked to ensure it matches the identity of the test taker. Security checks are completed to make sure no materials that could be used for cheating can enter the test room, including smartwatches.

On test day, vetted invigilators oversee the test taking in person, and security cameras inside the test centres monitor the entire test-taking period. Test centre computers use PSI's own secure web browsers that lock down other desktop and internet browsing functions whilst the exam is in progress.

The centre must retain the footage for a minimum of 60 days, which can be used to review potential malpractice. PSI manages a dedicated team of onsite auditors who vet each site at least once a year.

How easy is it to book a Skills for English: SELT test centre session?

Booking a *Skills for English: SELT* session at a test centre is simple. Test takers need simply visit the *Skills for English: SELT* booking website: <https://www.bookmyskillsforenglish.com/>, select their nearest test centre, find the most suitable date and time for their single-session exam, pay and book.

Where can Skills for English: SELT tests be taken?

Skills for English: SELT can be taken in PSI's secure test centres in over 120 countries. The number of *Skills for English: SELT* test centres in operation, powered by PSI, increases week on week in line with our global growth strategy. Consequently, for an up-to-date list of all the test centres at which *Skills for English: SELT* can be taken, please see the [UK Government's secure English language testing website](#).

How do test takers of Skills for English: SELT receive their results?

Once results for *Skills for English: SELT* have been released, an email is sent to the test taker notifying them that their results are available to view by logging on to the *Skills for English: SELT* booking site at: <https://www.bookmyskillsforenglish.com/>. Test takers can then see their results both by skill and overall, along with their URN (Unique Reference Number) for that test result, which is shared with the Home Office and used in all correspondence relating to the test result. These results can also be sent to institutions as a part of the application process.

How do you verify the results of Skills for English: SELT?

The secure, online verification system for test takers' results in *Skills for English: SELT* can be accessed at: <https://results.bookmyskillsforenglish.com/>. All you need to do is type in the test taker's unique reference number (URN) and their date of birth to access their results.

The following information about the test taker and their test is available from the online verification system: full name, date the test was taken, name of the test centre, name of the test (i.e., which level they took), their overall result, date the result was issued, and a table giving a result breakdown (by skill, with a percentage score and an overall result).

Can Skills for English: SELT be retaken?

Yes, a test taker can retake as soon as they'd like to and when a test slot is available, but to ensure enough time for preparation and score improvement, we recommend test takers wait at least 28 days before booking again.

Skills for English: Global Questions

How has Skills for English: Global been validated?

As with *Skills for English: SELT*, given their shared test content, *Skills for English: Global* is also the beneficiary of validation via approval and assurance of the Scottish Qualifications Authority, approval from UK NARIC, and Ecctis' validation of the B1 and B2 Pass with Merit mappings to the CEFR B1+ and B2+ descriptors.

How easy is it to book a Skills for English: Global test?

It is very easy to make an account with PSI and book a test online. Test takers around the world can choose to book *Skills for English: Global* either in a test centre or in the convenience of their own home.

Please note Online Proctoring is currently not available for test takers in mainland China or Hong Kong – test takers will use the following link to book: <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/sfeglobalchina>. Test takers in any other country will use this link: <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/sfeglobal>.

Where can Skills for English: Global tests be taken?

Skills for English: Global tests can be taken in a PSI test centre, just like *Skills for English: SELT*, but is also offered via secure online proctoring. Higher education institutions receiving *Skills for English: Global* scores will not know the location or modality of where tests were completed. Please see information in the *Skills for English: SELT* FAQ section on test centre security protocols.

How is Skills for English: Global, and its remote proctoring, secure?

If taking *Skills for English: Global* at home, online proctoring is administered with PSI's gold-standard Secure Browser. Test takers are virtually invigilated via the test taker's webcam and computer microphone by PSI's expert check-in specialists (who verify IDs and ensure a secure test environment) and then by remote proctors (trained in exam invigilation). At the start, the check-in specialist will require the test taker use their

webcam to take a selfie, present their photo ID, give a 360° scan of their room, scan from floor to ceiling, scan their desk surface for the absence of forbidden items, and prove no extraneous materials (e.g., accessories, watches, headphones, etc.) are being worn.

The test is taken in the environment of PSI's own Secure Browser, and any attempt to open unauthorized applications or any internet browsing will result in the test automatically being terminated. Proctors flag all violations based on a stringent definition set of violations and terminate the test if necessary.

We do not use artificial intelligence within our remote proctoring.

How do test takers of Skills for English: Global receive their results?

Once the results of a *Skills for English: Global* test have been released, test takers receive an email from PSI. If the test taker has passed, the email also contains a .pdf file of the score report. Any score report email will also contain a link to the booking site, where the score report .pdf can be downloaded as well.

From the booking site, test takers can then select which higher education institutions they wish to send their result to. If the test taker fails, they will be given instructions on next steps, such as how to rebook.

How do you verify the results of Skills for English: Global?

Higher education institutions (HEIs) have administrative access to the *Skills for English: Global* Online Verification Portal (OVP), which is accessible at: <https://verify.psiexams.com>. Please note that *Skills for English: Global* and *Skills for English: SELT* have different verification websites. The SELT verification site is at: <https://results.bookmyskillsforenglish.com/>.

Please email recognitions@skillsforenglish.com if you would like to accept *Skills for English: Global* and receive test takers' Global results directly in the OVP.

To access the OVP, an HEI must be set up with account credentials. The primary administrator of the OVP will be able to add or remove their colleagues from the portal. An HEI administrator with access to the OVP will only be able to view/download the specific score reports that a *Skills for English: Global* test taker had chosen to send to that

HEI via the HEI selection tool on the booking site. An email notification is sent to HEI admin users any time new test takers, and thus prospective applicants to that HEI, choose to have PSI send that HEI their scores.

Can Skills for English: Global be retaken?

Yes, a test taker can retake as soon as they'd like to and when a test slot is available. To ensure enough time for preparation and score improvement, we recommend test takers wait at least 28 days before booking again.



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