

INTERNATIONAL GUIDE - LAND WARFARE CENTRE.

Preparation for Training

LANGUAGE ENTRY STANDARDS

In order to gain maximum benefit from the training, International students require a defined level of English. Some courses will require a higher level of English than others, particularly those involving technical work or where safety procedures are a major factor. All LWC training has a defined level of English which equates to an International English Language Testing System level. The IELTS assessment is run in most capital cities by the British Council; the cost of this is approximately £90 per test (in 2006), this cost must be borne by the country requesting the training. Please see the following websites for further information:

www.britishcouncil.org or www.ielts.org

Exemption from taking an IELTS assessment

The following potential students are not required to take an IELTS assessment:

- a. Those whose first language is English.
- b. Those who originate from a NATO nation.
- c. Those who are returning for training within 5 years of taking a test (providing the IELTS requirement is not at a higher level)

International English Language Test (IELTS). IDT(LWC) will ask for the International English Language Test (IELTS) to be taken by a student to assess the level of a student's English. The IELTS is expressed in a single score, made up of 4 separate elements; listening, reading, writing and speaking. Copies of the IELTS certificate should be submitted to IDT(LWC) with the details of the nominated student.

Course IELTS Ratings. Some courses will require a higher level of English than others, particularly those involving flying or flying related procedures. As a general guide, an overall IELTS score of 5.0 is required for most training, in both the listening and speaking tests. An overall level of 5.5 is required for other Army courses, except where specified in the Training Catalogue. The interpretation of the IELTS scores is given in the table shown:

Band	Level	Remarks
9	Expert user	Has fully operational command of language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.
8	Very Good User	Has fully operational command of language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriate usage. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situation.
7	Good User	Has operational command of language, though with occasional inaccuracies. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

6.5	Competent User +	Has effective command of the language, despite a number of inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
6	Competent User	Has generally effective command of English, despite some misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
5.5	Modest User +	Has a reasonable command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, although they are likely to make some mistakes. They should be able to handle basic communications in their own field and express their meaning fairly clearly, if not precisely. They are able to convey meanings on most general topics, but not on academic or vocational ones.
5	Modest User	Has partial command of English, coping with overall meaning in most situations, although many mistakes will be made.
4	Limited User	Basic competence in familiar situations. Is not able to use complex language
3	Extremely Limited User	Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur.
2	Intermittent	Only very basic understanding of English, with great difficulty in understanding of written and spoken English.
1	Non User	No ability to speak English beyond possibly a few isolated words.
0	No test	No assessable information provided.

Inability to take the IELTS Test. In cases where the student cannot take the IELTS test, the originating authority has the responsibility to ensure the student has acquired the appropriate level of English to complete their training. DAs are requested to remind their hosts of this, and that the UK reserves the right to withdraw students from training if their English is not adequate for progression on the course.

COURSE ENTRY STANDARDS

The need for students to be able to meet Entry Standards before undertaking any training with UK Armed Forces cannot be over-emphasised. The standards include English language ability, academic qualifications, previous professional experience and, in many cases, the requirement for a high degree of physical fitness. Failure to meet these standards could result in the withdrawal of a student from training.

Details of the Entry Standards for specific courses can be found on the Course Data Sheets in the single Service Training Manuals and the IDT Brochure:
www.mod.uk/IntDefTrng

CONFORMITY TO SYLLABUS OF TRAINING

Students accepted for training are to comply with the syllabus of training in all its aspects. It is sometimes necessary to consider variations to the standard syllabus of a particular course, to enable the student to get the maximum benefit from this training.

PHYSICAL STANDARDS

Candidates for training with the UK Armed Forces should be in general good health and physically fit. Students attending the three week pre-course at LWC should be prepared for some physical activity to prepare them for the courses as required. Whilst IDT is aware that some climatic conditions are not conducive to running, students are strongly encouraged to undertake some preparatory physical training.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Only emergency medical, optical or dental treatment provided by UK Armed Forces are covered by fees charged for tuition. There is therefore no charge for such treatment, except for supply of spectacles, dental bridges or dental appliances and prescription charges. Dependants are not covered by this concession, unless otherwise detailed by Memorandum of Understanding.

Students who arrive at the course with ongoing medical conditions that prevent them from completing all aspects of the course will be returned to their home country.

Students whose course lasts less than six months, unless covered by a reciprocal agreement, will be liable for any NHS hospital treatment they receive. Hospitals do have some discretion in this matter. Accident and Emergency services alone are provided free of charge. Students from EU nations are advised to bring an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card, formerly E111).