Entry Standards - International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

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 British Army Training should have 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. (See www.britishcouncil.org and www.ielts.org for further information).

Who is exempt from taking an IELTS assessment?
The following potential students are not required to take an IELTS assessment:

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

How does the potential student take the IELTS assessment?
If the potential student is required to take the IELTS assessment, the student can contact the British Embassy or High Commission to organise a test. Alternatively, the student can approach the British Council direct, in their country.
The originating authority will pay the test charges for potential students who do not reach the required IELTS score. IDT(A) will pay for one test per course place for UK funded students only.
The originating authority will pay the test charges in all other cases or when potential students do not reach the required IELTS standard.

Charges are currently approximately £100 per assessment.

What if the student is unable to take the IELTS assessment?
The requirement to take an IELTS assessment can be waived in exceptional circumstances. In these circumstances the originating authority is responsible for ensuring that the potential student has acquired the appropriate level of English to participate in the training. The British Army reserves the right to withdraw any students from training if their English is not adequate for the course and the originating authority will still be liable for all course fees.

Where can English Language Training be given?

- With the British Council in country. This is most suitable for refresher training immediately prior to a student's departure for UK. This is usually an inexpensive option.
- At Defence School of Languages (DSL), Beaconsfield, UK, DSL specialises in full-time, high- intensity, language courses, and its training design and delivery are certified to the ISO 9001 international quality standard. Its main role is to provide foreign language training to the British Armed forces and English language training to military personnel from overseas. Please contact IDT(A) for details of courses at DSL or see courses listed in this brochure.
- Private language schools in the UK. It should be borne in mind that standards vary considerably, and that the course will not be tailored to military expectations. IDT(A) cannot administer students looking for or undertaking private language training.

What does the IELTS Score mean?

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 inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations.
7	Good User	Has operational command of language, though with occasional inaccuracies. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.
6	Competent User	Has generally effective command of English, despite some misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
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 User	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.