

# THE AUSTRALIAN

---

## More choice in visa English language tests

STEFANIE BALOGH THE AUSTRALIAN MAY 23, 2014 12:00AM

**VISA applicants to Australia will have more choice in the type of English language tests they can sit as the Abbott government moves to streamline its migration system.**

The decision to expand the number of tests approved by the Immigration Department to assess whether applicants have a reasonable command of the English language applies to temporary graduate, skilled, work and holiday, and former resident visas.

Immigration and Border Protection Assistant Minister senator Michaelia Cash revealed applicants who needed to provide the Immigration Department with “an English language test score as evidence of their English ability will be able to choose from two additional tests”.

Currently the internationally recognised International English Language Testing System and the Occupational English Test are used. From November, the Test of English Language as a Foreign Language internet-based test and the Pearson Test of English Academia will also be accepted by the department.

Senator Cash told The Australian increasing the number of acceptable English language tests would provide greater choice for visa applicants.

The changes are in line with the department’s focus on increasing competition in the English language testing market for visas.

The IELTS, for example, assesses English language ability through listening, reading, writing and speaking modules. The tests are held up to four times a month in more than 125 countries.

The listening module takes about 30 minutes and can include questions about conversations between people in everyday social situations.

The reading module lasts about an hour and involves reading short texts that focus on practical things such as applying for a job, and the speaking test is a face-to-face oral interview.

×

### Share this story

**Facebook** ([http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494&t=More choice in visa English language tests](http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494&t=More%20choice%20in%20visa%20English%20language%20tests))

**Twitter** ([https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494&text=More choice in visa English language tests](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494&text=More%20choice%20in%20visa%20English%20language%20tests))

**LinkedIn** ([http://www.linkedin.com/shareArticle?mini=true&url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494&title=More choice in visa](http://www.linkedin.com/shareArticle?mini=true&url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494&title=More%20choice%20in%20visa))

*English language tests*)

**Google** (<https://plus.google.com/share?url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494>)

**Email** ([mailto:?body=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494&subject=More choice in visa English language tests](mailto:?body=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/more-choice-in-visa-english-language-tests/story-fn9hm1gu-1226927464494&subject=More%20choice%20in%20visa%20English%20language%20tests))