

# OET

OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

## The English language test for healthcare professionals



Information for candidates

## What is the Occupational English Test (OET)?

OET is a healthcare-specific English language test. It assesses the language proficiency of healthcare professionals looking to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

This high-quality test has been designed by world-leading experts in language assessment, and is supported by over 30 years of test development, research and validation.

### Is OET the right test for me?

OET tests international health practitioners from the following 12 professions:

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Dentistry	Occupational Therapy	Podiatry
Dietetics	Optometry	Radiography
Medicine	Pharmacy	Speech Pathology
Nursing	Physiotherapy	Veterinary Science

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If you have chosen one of these professions, OET is the ideal test for you. It is a significant milestone towards your international career development.

## Why should I take OET?

- Take the English language test that is designed specifically for healthcare professionals.
- Prove to employers you have the language communication skills to work in an English-speaking healthcare environment.
- Expand your career opportunities in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.
- It's the most suitable test for healthcare professionals for registration, employment and visa purposes.

*As a health professional, I think OET is the best and most useful English test. It has helped me to develop the English language skills that are vital for a career in Medicine.*

Seyed Riaz Hashemi  
Doctor

## Who recognises the test?

OET is recognised as proof of English language proficiency by a growing number of organisations in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.



**VETERINARY COUNCIL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**  
Te Kaunihera Rata Kararehe o Aotearoa



**Speech  
Pathology  
Australia**



Australian Veterinary Boards Council Inc.



**pharmacycouncil**  
OF NEW ZEALAND  
Te Pou Whakamana Kaimatu o Aotearoa



**Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa**  
Nursing Council of New Zealand



**ANZPAC**  
Australian and New Zealand  
Podiatry Accreditation Council

## Australia

### Government

#### Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)

OET is accepted by DIBP<sup>1</sup> for various visa categories including skilled migration and student visas. Visit [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) for more details.

### Boards and Councils

#### Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

AHPRA is the national agency responsible for the registration and accreditation of health professions in Australia. The following AHPRA Boards accept OET:

- **Dental Board of Australia**
- **Medical Board of Australia**
- **Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia**
- **Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia**
- **Occupational Therapy Board of Australia**
- **Optometry Board of Australia**
- **Pharmacy Board of Australia**
- **Physiotherapy Board of Australia**
- **Podiatry Board of Australia.**

<sup>1</sup> This information is accurate as of October 2014.

## Other Boards and Councils

- Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)
- Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC)
- Australian Dental Council (ADC)
- Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR)
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)
- Australian Pharmacy Council
- Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC)
- Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA)
- Health Advisory Council (HAC)
- Occupational Therapy Council (Australia and New Zealand) (OTC)
- South Australian Medical Education and Training (SA MET)
- Speech Pathology Australia (SPA).

## Universities and education providers

- Australian Catholic University (ACU)
- Australian College of Nursing (ACN)
- Curtin University
- C.Y. O'Connor Institute
- Deakin University
- James Cook University (JCU)
- La Trobe University
- Perth Institute of Business and Technology (PIBT)
- Southern Cross University (SCU)
- Tafe NSW
- Tafe SA
- The University of Queensland
- University of Newcastle (UoN)
- University of Notre Dame Australia
- University of South Australia (UniSA)
- University of the Sunshine Coast (USC)
- University of Western Sydney (UWS).

## Financial assistance



**Australian Government**

**Department of Industry, Innovation,  
Climate Change, Science, Research  
and Tertiary Education**

The Assessment Subsidy for Overseas Trained Professionals Programme (ASDOT) is an Australian Government initiative applicable to 11 of the 12 OET professions. Eligible candidates may apply for financial assistance to cover the cost of taking OET. Further information is available at [www.aei.gov.au/asdot](http://www.aei.gov.au/asdot)

## New Zealand

### Boards and Councils

- Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC)
- Dental Council of New Zealand (DCNZ)
- Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ)
- Midwifery Council of New Zealand
- New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)
- Nursing Council of New Zealand
- Occupational Therapy Council (Australia and New Zealand) (OTC)
- Pharmacy Council of New Zealand
- Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand
- Podiatrists Board of New Zealand
- Veterinary Council of New Zealand.

## Singapore

### Boards and Councils

- Allied Health Professions Council
- Singapore Dental Council
- Singapore Medical Council
- Singapore Pharmacy Council.

For further information about recognition, visit [www.occupationalenglishtest.org/recognition](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/recognition)

## Where and when can I take OET?

OET is available up to 12 times a year, at over 60 testing venues in 28 countries.

For OET test dates and a list of countries where the test is available, visit [www.occupationalenglishtest.org](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org)

## How do I register for OET?

You register for OET via our website. You will find all the information you need on how to apply for OET, including guidelines for uploading photos, test costs and how to pay, at [www.occupationalenglishtest.org](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org)

## How can I prepare for the test?

It is important you prepare for OET. You can find a wide range of support, including official OET preparation materials, at [www.occupationalenglishtest.org/preparation](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/preparation)

- Download a set of practice materials including free sample papers.
- Additional practice materials can be ordered from the OET bookshop.
- Find a list of training providers who offer preparation courses for OET.<sup>2</sup>

*OET is a practical test with content that reflects real-life tasks performed in the healthcare sector. Taking the test has enabled me to gain a deeper insight into the communication skills required for my occupation.*

Jiarong Yu  
Nurse

<sup>2</sup> This list is for information only - we do not endorse any particular training programme.

## When and how will I receive my results?

Your results will be published on the website approximately 15 business days after the test: log in to your secure online profile to see them. In addition, an Official Statement of Results will be posted to the current address in your online profile.

## How is OET scored?

You will receive a separate grade for each sub-test ranging from A (highest) to E (lowest). There is no overall grade.

Here are the descriptions for each grade that appear on the printed Statement of Results:

OET grade	Description of ability
A	Very high level of performance
B	High level of performance, i.e. able to use English with fluency and accuracy adequate for professional needs
C	Good level of performance; however, not acceptable to a range of health and medical councils
D	Moderate level of performance: requires improvement
E	Low level of performance: requires considerable improvement



## What's in the test?

OET covers all four language skills with an emphasis on communication in a healthcare environment. It consists of four sub-tests:

- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking.

The Listening and Reading sub-tests are designed to assess your ability to understand spoken and written English, based on health-related topics and tasks common to all professions.

The Writing and Speaking sub-tests are specific to the 12 individual healthcare professions – designed to reflect common tasks performed in the workplace.



## The four components of OET

### Listening sub-test (approximately 50 minutes)

The Listening sub-test consists of two parts, with 20–28 questions in total:

- **Part A:** a recorded, simulated professional/patient consultation with note-taking questions.
- **Part B:** a recorded talk or lecture on a health-related topic with a range of questions including short answer and multiple choice.

The content for this sub-test is the same for all candidates – irrespective of profession.

### Reading sub-test (60 minutes)

The Reading sub-test consists of two parts:

- **Part A: summary task**

Skim and scan three to four short texts (a total of 650 words) on a single health-related topic and complete a summary paragraph by filling in the missing words (a total of 25–35 gaps), in 15 minutes.

Part A is designed to test your ability to accurately process and retrieve written information in a meaningful way, within a time limit.

- **Part B: reading comprehension task**

Read two passages (600–800 words each) on general health topics and answer 8–10 multiple-choice questions for each text, in 45 minutes.

Part B is designed to assess your ability to read and understand information on health-related topics within a time limit.

The content for this sub-test is the same for all candidates – irrespective of profession.

## Writing sub-test (45 minutes)

You will be asked to write a letter – usually a referral letter, based on case notes. In this letter you should:

- record treatment offered to date
- explain the issues to be addressed (based on given instructions)
- show that you have considered the facts and information
- write 180–200 words, set out in an appropriate format.

The content for this sub-test is profession specific.

## Speaking sub-test (approximately 20 minutes)

This test assesses your ability to communicate effectively in English. It consists of two simulated consultations between a healthcare professional and a patient. In these role-plays you will take the role of the practitioner and the interviewer plays the patient or patient's relative/carer (or for veterinary science, the animal's owner/carer).

The content for this sub-test is profession specific.

Register online:

[www.occupationalenglishtest.org](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org)

Got a question?

Contact us

The OET Centre

GPO Box 372

Melbourne VIC 3001

Australia

Tel: +61 3 8656 4000

[www.occupationalenglishtest.org/help](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/help)

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Language Assessment  
Part of the University of Cambridge



**BOX HILL**  
INSTITUTE

Global Educators™

The Occupational English Test (OET) is designed to meet the specific English language needs of the healthcare sector. It assesses the language proficiency of healthcare professionals who wish to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

OET is owned by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment Trust (CBLA), a venture between Cambridge English and Box Hill Institute. Cambridge English Language Assessment is a not-for-profit department of the University of Cambridge with over 100 years of experience in assessing the English language. Box Hill Institute is a leading Australian vocational and higher education provider, active both in Australia and overseas.