

## What is IELTS?

IELTS is the **International English Language Testing System**. More than 3 million IELTS tests were taken in 2017, reflecting the growing importance of the world's leading test of English for international higher education and migration.

IELTS is the most widely used test of English for migration to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. It is recognised by more than 10,000 universities, schools, employers and immigration bodies, including all universities in Australia and the UK and many of the leading institutions in the USA

## IELTS level required for entry to university in the UK:

All students on IELTS courses at Abbey College must continue to study IELTS until they achieve an overall score of **6.5** or attain the scores requested by their chosen universities. An IELTS score of **5.5** is the minimum score required for a UK visa although some competitive university courses such as medicine, dentistry or law require higher levels in one or more skills.

## Language Skills Tested:

- ✓ **Listening:** dialogues, instructions, lectures
- ✓ **Reading:** descriptive, technical and academic texts
- ✓ **Speaking:** conversation, presentation, discussion
- ✓ **Writing:** academic reports and essays

### IELTS levels:

- 9: Expert User**
- 8: Very Good User**
- 7: Good User**
- 6: Competent User**
- 5: Modest User**
- 4: Limited User**
- 3: Extremely Limited**

## IELTS Test Structure



## IELTS Topics: There is no official syllabus but common topic areas include:

- History and Society
- Health and Fitness
- Language and Linguistics
- Travel and Tourism
- Media and the Arts
- The Natural World
- Architecture and Engineering
- Science and ICT
- Urbanisation and Globalisation
- The Environment
- Business and Law
- Space and the Universe

**IELTS levels required for academic study at Abbey College Manchester:**

Pre-sessional English followed by GCSE [3 tier entry]	<b>IELTS 3.5 - 4.5</b>
One year GCSE Programme	<b>IELTS 4.5</b>
Two year International Foundation Programme	<b>IELTS 4.5</b>
Two year A-level Programme [limited subject choice]	<b>IELTS 5.0</b>
Two year A-level Programme [full subject choice]	<b>IELTS 5.5</b>
One year International Foundation Programme	<b>IELTS 5.5</b>

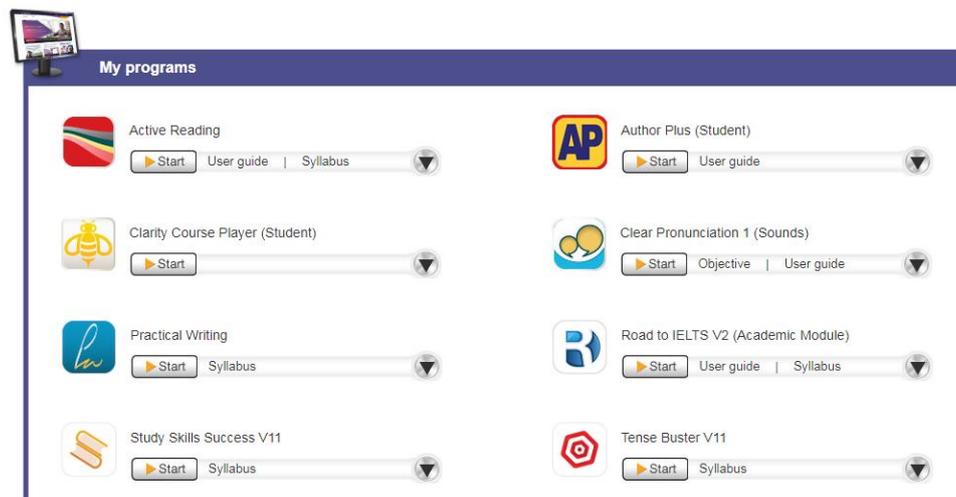
**Students must achieve the required level in all 4 elements of the IELTS test unless permission is given by the Principal.**

**Road to IELTS**



All Abbey College IELTS students are given a FREE Clarity English online account. ClarityEnglish programs are used by schools, universities and individuals in almost every country in the world. They provide hundreds of hours of IELTS skills advice and practice exercises, including 12 full IELTS tests.

The programs help students to consolidate what they have learnt in class and help to improve IELTS grades. Use of these programs is compulsory and we monitor the amount of time and number of exercises completed.



**Taking the IELTS test**

You take the IELTS test at an external IELTS centre. You should ask your teachers for advice about when to take your test and try to book it as early as possible. Test centres can become fully booked, especially in June and July, so leaving it to the last minute may result in you having to travel to another city or even to take it in your home country.

The following website will help you to find a test centre:

[http://www.ielts.org/test\\_centre\\_search/search\\_results.aspx](http://www.ielts.org/test_centre_search/search_results.aspx)