

Information on the placement test for English

General information

In order to study at the Department for Translation Studies, a high level of language competency is a prerequisite for the 1st foreign language to be studied and a good level of language competency is required for the 2nd foreign language to be studied.

English

Registration for the English courses ensues only after successful completion of the placement test. The test is carried out in order to allocate students to either English level I or II, respectively. In order to be allocated a place in English I, candidates must achieve a minimum score of 60% in the test. To gain exemption from English I and be automatically placed in English II, candidates must achieve a score of 90% or higher. If a candidate fails to achieve the minimum score of 60%, they will be advised to improve their language competency and try again the following semester. All applicants must undertake a placement test in each respective language they wish to apply for.

The level of the placement test is in accordance with the Common European Framework of References for Languages (CEFR). This also corresponds to the Austrian school leaving (Matura) level and the Cambridge First Certificate of English.

The placement test takes 90 minutes in total and comprises four parts: listening comprehension, reading comprehension, writing, grammar and vocabulary.

Listening comprehension

Two listening comprehension activities (2 x approx. 3 min.) with corresponding comprehension questions (inferring information/meaning, multiple choice, gap filling, true or false, brief answers, etc.)

Reading comprehension

One reading comprehension exercise (a 300-400 word text with corresponding comprehension questions)

Writing

Candidates will be required to write a text of approx. 200-250 words in response to a prompt (i.e. brief email, letter of complaint/introduction/enquiry, short essay topic, etc.).

Grammar and vocabulary

Various tasks and exercise (gap filling, multiple choice, sentence matching, etc.)

Grammar: emphasis is placed on the most common mistakes (tenses, articles, adverbs, comparison of adjectives, auxiliaries, conjunctions, relative clauses, if clauses, gerunds and infinitives, prepositions, word order)

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation of the placement test is weighted as follows:

Listening comprehension	20%	Reading comprehension	20%
Writing	30%	Grammar and Vocabulary	30%

Preparation tips

Revise school English, read English books, newspapers and magazines, listen to English-speaking radio, watch English-speaking TV/films (also available online), use Internet sites such as YouTube, TED talks, TIME video player. Recommended books: English Vocabulary in Use - upper-intermediate level (Cambridge University Press).