

## **Information on the placement test for English**

### **General information**

In order to study at the Department for Translation Studies, a level of B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR or GERS) is required for English and German as a foreign language and of B1 for French, Italian and Spanish. Russian is the only language which can be studied (as a 2nd foreign language) without having any prior knowledge of the language.

Applicants are required to take a placement test in order to verify that they possess the required language skills. Candidates must achieve a minimum score of 50% in this placement test in order to gain admission to the language courses. Those who pass the placement test will be allocated a place on a course in English level I.

### **Procedure**

ALL candidates **MUST REGISTER** for the test by submitting their registration form to the Department's secretary, Ms. Sandra Reiter.

Candidates who provide one of the following certificates will gain exemption from the placement test:

- an official school leaving certificate (i.e. Matura/Abitur or equivalent) that specifies the required level, and is not older than one year.
- an official language certificate (i.e. Cambridge, TOEFL or equivalent) at B2 level or higher, and is not older than 2 years.

Candidates who possess a certificate at level C1 may, upon request, take a test to be placed in English level 2. If you wish to take this test, please specify on your registration form and submit your relevant language certificate.

### **Course registration**

All candidates are required to sign up for the language courses during the official registration period even though the placement test may take place after the registration period is over.

### **Enquiries**

Please direct all your enquiries to our coordinator for English, Ms. Astrid Schmidhofer: [astrid.schmidhofer@uibk.ac.at](mailto:astrid.schmidhofer@uibk.ac.at).

### **Format of the placement test:**

### *Listening comprehension*

One/two listening comprehension task(s) (total 5-6 minutes) with corresponding comprehension questions (inferring information/meaning, multiple choice, multiple matching, gap filling, true or false, brief answers, etc.)

### *Reading comprehension*

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

### *Writing*

Two writing tasks: Task 1 involves deciding whether set sentences are constructed correctly or not. For task 2, candidates are required to write a text of approx. 100-120 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 exercises (gap filling, multiple choice, sentence matching, etc.)  
Grammar: emphasis is placed on the most common mistakes (i.e. tenses, articles, adverbs, modal verbs, comparison of adjectives, auxiliaries, conjunctions, relative clauses, if clauses, gerunds and infinitives, prepositions, word order, etc.)

## **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), *Longman Advanced Learner's Grammar* - Mark Foley/Diane Hall (Longman).