

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 (B2) is a prerequisite for the 1st foreign language to be studied and a good level of language competency (B1) is required for the 2nd foreign language to be studied, with the exception of Russian. Russian is the only language which can be studied (as a 2nd foreign language) without having any prior knowledge of the language.

English

Registration for the English courses ensues only after successful completion of the placement test. This test is carried out in order to ascertain whether applicants have the required level of language ability to begin studying English. The required level for entry to study English at the Department of Translation Studies is B2 (in accordance with CEFR). In order to be allocated a place in English level 1, candidates must achieve a minimum score of 50% in the placement test. In exceptional cases, candidates can gain an exemption from English level 1 and be automatically placed in English level 2. This ensues when candidates achieve a score of 90% or higher in the placement test. If a candidate fails to achieve the minimum score of 50%, they will not be allocated a place on an English course. In this case, applicants are advised to improve their language competency and try again the following semester. **Note:** All applicants to the Department of Translation Studies 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 level (Matura) and the Cambridge First Certificate of English. The test takes 90 minutes in total and comprises four parts:

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).