

Password

password

About Password

Designed by Professor Cyril Weir's world leading team of academics in testing and assessment at CRELLA (the Centre for Research in English Language Learning and Assessment), Password balances the need for accurate and reliable test results with the desire for speed, convenience and accessibility.

Password is a test of intermediate academic English and has been benchmarked to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) levels A2 to C1. Password is securely delivered and assessed online, and test-takers receive instant test results. Reporting facilities are outstanding and certification (which can be co-branded) is instantly available at the click of a mouse.

Password is used by universities, colleges and schools who wish to accurately measure English language level to:

- Speed up offer making and aid international student recruitment.
- Enable accurate pre-arrival counselling and study planning.
- Identify students joining university programmes in need of English language support.
- Place in English language classes on arrival.
- Check progress.

The Password test assesses a student's language knowledge, and is designed to be used both alone and in conjunction with other test modules. The Password essay module is used by many institutions wishing to see a sample of their students' writing. An institutions' own interview test can be added to test listening and speaking skills.

CRELLA

CRELLA, directed by Professor Cyril Weir, has established a national and international reputation as a centre for research into, and development of, English language tests. Members of the centre have published widely on language testing and assessment issues and carry out pioneering research into the nature of English language proficiency and its measurement. Research consultancies provided by the centre in the fields of English language testing and evaluation for examination authorities worldwide are currently helping with the development of foreign language testing in a number of countries. Details of the work of the centre can be found on their website (www.beds.ac.uk/crella).

“Password is recognised by BALEAP (The British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes) which has 75 university members. It is used by over 70 institutions in the UK, a growing number in Australia and the USA, and by English medium universities in many other countries around the world.”

contact@englishlanguagetesting.co.uk
www.englishlanguagetesting.co.uk

Password Pre-Arrival

Password Pre-SELT

Password is frequently used to measure how much English language preparation an international student needs before beginning a university programme or taking a high stakes four skills proficiency test such as IELTS, PTE Academic or TOEFL. It is a quick, cost-effective and reliable method of assessing international students who are preparing for university entrance.

Recent changes to UK legislation require some students applying for a General Student Visa (GSV) under Tier 4 of the Points Based System to take a SELT. For these students, Password is being used as the Pre-SELT test. Password takes just one hour to complete, is low stress and gives an accurate result which is benchmarked to the CEFR. A Password 4.0 indicates that students are ready to test for CEFR B1, a Password 5.5 indicates that students are ready to test for CEFR B2, and a Password Plus indicates that students are ready to test for CEFR C1.

Students joining courses via the Student Visitor route can continue to use Password as evidence of their English language level.

Password	CEFR
Password Plus	C1 and above
Password 6.0	B2
Password 5.5	
Password 5.0	
Password 4.5	B1
Password 4.0	
Password 3.5	
Password 3.0	A2+
Pre-Password	A2
	A1+ and below

Password for Educational Counselling

Password is used to aid educational counselling and study planning for students joining long English language and EAP programmes. For both institutions and students it is critical to know accurately how many weeks of English preparation will be needed for students to reach the required level for entry to their academic programme.

“Griffith University has found the Password test to be a very useful and reliable tool for establishing indicative English Language levels.”

Pamela Humphreys, Test Centre Manager, GELI,
Griffith University, Australia

Password for Direct Entry to University Programmes

The core Password test of language knowledge and reading can be extended to a full skills proficiency test by using the Password essay (32 randomised essay titles) and an institution's own speaking and listening assessment. The Password essay, listening and speaking scores can be entered into the Password results database by the institution's own staff, and results certificates can be customised with not only the institutions logo but also the additional test component scores. UK universities are able to use the extended Password test as evidence that students are eligible for a Tier 4 General Student Visa (GSV) under the UKBA's Points Based System.

Password Post-Arrival

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Password as a Diagnostic Tool

Many universities use Password as a quick, easy and cost effective diagnostic filter test for all international students directly joining undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, as well as those joining preparation courses. Students scoring lower than expected can be quickly identified as needing urgent in-session help. Using Password in this way is enabling universities to increase the quality of the international student experience leading to enhanced student outcomes.

“The University of Essex uses Password as a diagnostic filter test to quickly identify incoming non native English speaking students who are unexpectedly weak at English. We test around 1,200 students each year on arrival and benefit from Password’s ease of use, fast turnaround, security of test and of course accurate results. If the student has previously taken an IELTS test we compare the results and find that there is a close correlation. We also benefit from Password’s flexibility (we have added our own writing element), and it’s portability (“where there’s a web there’s a way...”). Finally, and very importantly, Password is good value for money.”

Stuart Bannerman, Director, International Academy,
University of Essex

Password for Placement

Password is widely used for placement onto the following university preparation programmes run in many countries around the world:

- English for Academic Purposes (EAP)
- International Foundation Programmes
- Pre-Sessional Courses
- Pre-Masters Programmes

At intervals during the course and at the end, Password is also a valuable tool to check progress and support quality improvements.

“There is no test that can compete with Password for its combination of state-of-the-art question design, security, reliability and simplicity of use, delivered at such a low cost. NCUK has used the Password Test as our standard test of entry since 2009, as it has proved to be an extremely reliable indicator of academic language ability and predicted final NCUK EAP grade. We now have the Password Test in use in more than 30 centres in ten countries across the world, and it continues to be popular amongst teachers and candidates.”

Michael A. Abberton Subject Leader EAP, NCUK