

Password in Australia

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.

Password is used by over 50 universities in the UK and a growing number in Australia.

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 institution's 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.

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Password Pre-Arrival

Testing Off-Shore

Since the publication of the DEEWR Good Practice Principles 2008, there has been context and good reason for universities to adopt an accurate, reliable, efficient English language testing instrument. Testing begins offshore when students are first counselled about the pathways they might take to university.

Students applying to take English language and other pathway programmes run by Australian universities who are from countries assessed as low risk by DIAC can use Password in support of their course applications. Students who are required to take a high stakes skills test such as IELTS, can take Password first to get an immediate, accurate and cost-effective indication of their level of English and therefore know what their score is likely to be. Students then know whether they are ready to apply for their high stakes skills test or take additional English language study first.

Password, which has been benchmarked to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), gives immediate, accurate and reliable results every time. Universities can access Password results online at their convenience, and are then able to make offers and advise incoming students about their study plans and options.

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

A Password 4.0 indicates that students are ready to study a course at or test for CEFR B1, a Password 5.5 indicates that students are ready for CEFR B2, and a Password Plus indicates that students are ready for CEFR C1.

Password Post-Arrival

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Password and PELA (Post Enrolment Language Assessment)

Guided again by the DEEWR Good Practice Principles 2008, universities require an accurate, reliable, and efficient English language testing instrument for students who have arrived at University and are ready to commence academic study.

Students arrive at University with a variety of English language qualifications, sometimes taken up to two years before enrolment. There is therefore a need for a screening test which can quickly identify any students at risk and enable early intervention. Offering students Password, an online test which is benchmarked to the CEFR, ensures a level playing field for all students and accurate, reliable results to inform decisions regarding any additional English language tuition some students may need. Password has been proven to deliver accurate results up to CEFR C1 and is aiding many universities enhance student experience.

“Griffith University has found the Password test to be a very useful and reliable tool for establishing indicative English Language levels, particularly as our Post Enrolment Language Assessment (PELA).”

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

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

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