



password

University of Newcastle

The Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre (PALS) at the University of Newcastle, Australia has a proud history of delivering flexible and supportive pathways for motivated and talented students - not just to gain entry, but to thrive in their field of study.

Operating since 1989 and specialising in teaching English to students from all over the world. PALS offer a wide range of intensive English language programs designed to help students achieve their goal of studying with the University of Newcastle



"University of Newcastle's Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre (PALS) specialises in teaching English and Academic Skills to students from all over the world. Successful completion of our English Language Bridging Program allows students who have met the academic requirements of their degree to transition to their award program with the University of Newcastle and the College of International Education.

*PALS offers a range of intensive Academic English courses designed to help students improve their language proficiency and achieve their goal of studying at the University of Newcastle, as well as providing opportunities to engage with the wider community as part of our award-winning Student Experience Program. Our Advanced (EAP) course is the final component of the ELBP and is offered as a direct-entry pathway into University of Newcastle and CIE programs. Starting in 2020, this 10-week 200-hour course has utilised the **Password Skills Receptive Test** as the major summative assessment instrument for Reading and Listening skills.*

Students are introduced to the test in Week 5 with a lesson providing an overview of the test. Following this, students complete a practice test in Week 8 under exam conditions. The actual Password Receptive Skills test takes place in Week 10, with results going towards a percentage of their overall grade in these areas.

Our decision to switch to the Password Test was motivated by the quality of the test and the sense of its alignment with the Learning Outcomes already established for the ELBP. Given that we are a relatively small business unit, we felt that incorporating an external test supported by a rigorous test design, development and validation process would provide a range of benefits to all stakeholders involved in the ELBP, including students, staff and the University of Newcastle programs that received our students.

By integrating lessons into the Advanced EAP course that familiarise students with the Password Skills Receptive Test and providing them with a full practice test, we are confident that this test is a reliable and valid means of gauging proficiency across these skill areas, a belief that is supported by tracking data on Prior ELBP student success, GPA, and retention in their degree programs at the University of Newcastle."

Benjamin Doran, Assistant Director, Pathways and Academic Learning Support at the University of Newcastle



Find out more or request a demo:
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