

Why and how to do the TOEFL / IELTS test

Why ?

Every school that offers an internationally oriented program has to make sure that prospective students master the English language sufficiently well to understand complex arguments, to participate in classroom discussions, and to express their thoughts in written essays. This is why most universities have included the successful completion of a standardized English test among their admission requirements.

The “Test of English as a Foreign Language” (TOEFL) and the “International English Language Testing System” (IELTS) are offered by institutions with large global networks, and they are sufficiently standardized to guarantee international comparability. This is why those tests figure prominently in many institutions’ admission requirements.

How?

Information on the TOEFL can be found on the homepage of the Educational Test Service (<http://www.ets.org>) or on the official European web page (www.de.toefl.eu/).

Information on the IELTS test can be found on the homepage of the International English Language Testing System (<http://www.ielts.org>).

Tests can be **paper-based** or **internet-based**. They are offered on particular dates at particular locations. Information about the next test opportunity (both in time and in space) is easy to find on the institutions’ websites. These websites also answer a wide variety of “frequently asked questions” (How to prepare for the test? How to register? etc.). They even offer the possibility to answer sample questions.

Both ETS (Educational testing service) and IELTS charge a fee for processing the test. Note, however, that your test result can be used for various applications – among which, we hope, the one for the Master in International Economics and Public Policy is the most important one.