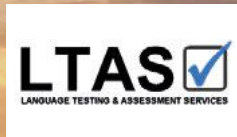


Q&A

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The English for Aviation Language Testing System (EALTS)





Why is proficiency in Aviation English important?

As mandated by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), all pilots and air traffic personnel are now required to demonstrate English proficiency according to a minimum of Operational Level 4 standard. Prior to initiating this requirement in the late 1990's, ICAO stated that more than 2,000 deaths could be attributed to poor communication.

The English for Aviation Language Test (EALT) is a valid, reliable and practical test of English language proficiency in the context of aviation and aeronautical communications, specifically developed in response to the ICAO 2008 Language Proficiency Requirements. Although designed for operational personnel, the focus of the test is on language proficiency, not on operational procedures.

EALT is a well-established test, which has been used to assess non-native speaking pilots and air traffic controllers from more than 50 ICAO Member States for benchmarking and licence endorsement purposes.

The Expert Level 6 Assessment (ELSA) is an ICAO compliant method of confirming the language proficiency of native or near-native English speakers, and consists of an in-depth interview.

NB. EALT and ELSA are components of the English for Aviation Language Testing System (EALTS) and are administered by LTAS Ltd. LTAS Ltd has been approved and certificated by UK CAA as an ICAO and EASA compliant English for Aviation Language Assessment Body and as complying in all respects with the ICAO requirements published under ICAO Doc 9835. LTAS are listed as an approved organisation in the UK CAA Standards Document 31, and DMU is listed on the UK CAA Approval Certificate for LTAS.

Why choose De Montfort University (DMU) for Aviation English?

The university has a dedicated Centre for English Language Learning (CELL), which offers a range of courses designed to help improve language skills.

CELL has 12 years' experience in English Language training to aviators including pilots, crew, radar and sonar operators, and air traffic personnel. Predominantly teaching general English tested by the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), from 2013 CELL has also taught Aviation English, tested by an internally developed ICAO-standard test, before becoming an EALTS Test Centre.

DMU's experienced staff have taught all over the world and have extensive knowledge of the current best practices for teaching English language. The centre itself provides a superb study environment at the heart of DMU's city campus. Facilities include classrooms with interactive whiteboards and AV equipment, a language lab with audio, video and computer technology, and a state-of-the-art media lab with cinema screens and all the latest creative software applications.

CELL is accredited by the British Council for the quality of its English teaching, so whether you come just for a test or for a longer course of Aviation English, you can be sure you will receive the highest standard of English language tuition.





How does the EALT work?

Authentic interaction

The EALT comprises a Test of Speaking (OPI) and a Test of Listening. The Test of Listening is an adaptive, separate test of listening comprehension which helps to ensure, across the two tests, the full, accurate, reliable, objective and fair assessment of both collaborative (participatory) and non-collaborative (non-participatory) listening proficiency.

The adaptive EALT Test of Listening combines with the EALT Test of Speaking to ensure that each test is a unique test event. It is a test that seeks to create authentic interaction between those participating, in a way that may be considered truly communicative.

Quality examination

The OPI performance of each and every candidate is assessed by a minimum of four examiners, two with language specialist expertise, and two with aviation operations expertise. Two of these examiners are present at the live test event, and two are what is termed remote raters, examiners who are sent the audio files of the OPI. When all four ratings have

been returned, if the ratings of all examiners fall within defined margins of tolerance, an algorithm determines the candidate's final rating. If the ratings fall outside the defined margins of tolerance, the audio file is then listened to by two senior examiners and the final results are then determined. In this way, the performance of each candidate is considered from a variety of complementary perspectives.

Greater degree of rigour and integrity

The format and tasks of the EALT Test of Speaking have been designed and developed specifically in response to the ICAO critical skills of operational language proficiency defined in its holistic descriptors. Each task focuses on the ability to evidence an area of proficiency as defined in those descriptors, in a way that no other test has achieved.

How can I book a test?

Options for the EALT:

- Two-day package which comprises four hours test-training and question and answer session followed by the EALT test.
- Longer bespoke courses in Aviation English for groups of personnel can also be delivered.

We are closely monitoring the current Covid-19 pandemic and will ensure delivery of the EALTS test complies with current UK Government guidelines.

If you are a native or near-native speaker, you can undertake the Expert Level 6 Assessment (ELSA).

Please contact us for more details at eaalts@dmu.ac.uk



A person in a dark suit is seen from behind, looking out of an airplane window. The window shows a sunset over a runway with several aircraft. The scene is framed by the blue interior of the airplane cabin.

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For more information or to book a test, get in touch:

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