

FAQ on Duolingo English Test

1. What is the Duolingo English Test (DET)?

The [DET](#) is an online, on-demand English proficiency exam that can be taken remotely. It evaluates reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

2. Why are we adding DET as an accepted test?

DET provides a more accessible and affordable option for students, reducing barriers related to cost and travel. It is widely accepted and has been shown to predict academic success at levels comparable to TOEFL and IELTS.

3. What is the minimum required DET score for UT Austin?

The minimum score that will be used is 115.

4. How does the DET score compare to the current TOEFL and IELTS minimum scores?

- a. DET 110 is comparable to TOEFL 79 (old scoring scale) or TOEFL 4 (new scoring scale) and the DET 120–125 is comparable to IELTS 6.5 (current minimum). Therefore, the DET minimum score used for UT Austin will be a 115.

5. How will this affect J-Holds?

- a. Currently, students with a J-Hold will have one of the following:
 - i. J-Hold for speaking - student has low English test scores for speaking: iBT TOEFL speaking section score below 22 or 4.5 (new 2026 scale); IELTS speaking section score below 6.5
 - ii. J-Hold for writing - student has low English test scores for writing: iBT TOEFL writing section score below 22 or 4.5 (new 2026 scale); IELTS writing section score below 6.5
 - iii. J-Hold for speaking and writing - student has low English test scores for both speaking and writing or did not submit English test scores
- b. Information about Duolingo speaking and writing section scores for J-Holds will be released at a later time and updated on the Texas Global website.

6. How long are DET scores valid?

Scores are valid for two years from the test date.

7. How will DET scores be received and verified?

Scores are sent electronically through the Duolingo platform and will be integrated into Slate. Additional details on processing and verification will be shared at a later time.

8. Will DET impact current English proficiency waiver policies?

No immediate changes are planned. Existing waiver policies remain in effect unless otherwise communicated.

9. Can applicants submit multiple test types?

Yes. Applicants may submit TOEFL, IELTS, or DET scores. The strongest valid score can be considered per current review practices.

10. When does this go into effect?

DET will be accepted beginning in the Summer/Fall 2027 admissions cycle.

11. Who should we contact with questions?

- a. For Undergraduate admissions, please contact: Assistant Director of Admissions, Jamie Helton, jamie.helton@austin.utexas.edu
- b. For Graduate admissions, please contact: Associate Director for Graduate Admissions - International, Alberto Nuche, alberto.nuche@austin.utexas.edu