

Non-Resident Initiative – FAQs

December 2024

1. What is the new IELTS Non-Resident booking policy about?

The new policy requires test takers to provide proof of residency in the country where they plan to take the **IELTS on paper** test. Proof of residency (permits or visas) cannot be for periods of less than three consecutive months.

There are some exceptions to this policy. **Test takers do NOT need to provide proof of residency if:**

- **IELTS is not available in their country of residency** - Passport holders of countries where IELTS is not offered will be allowed to sit IELTS in any format.
- **They have refugee status** – Any person holding refugee status will be allowed to sit IELTS in any format.
- **They are taking a test in the following countries:**
 - Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America
- **They are a passport holder of a European single market country.** The single market consists of the following countries:
 - EU - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
 - EEA - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
 - Switzerland
- If a test taker has a passport issued in Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan and wants to take the test in China, **they do NOT** need to prove residency.

2. Why is this change being implemented?

This change is being implemented to streamline efficiency for IELTS on paper testing.

3. What documents are accepted as proof of residency?

Most countries/territories issue residency permits (student/work/dependent) or ID cards to people who do not have the right to live and work there. These documents are normally sufficient to prove residency.

4. How do test takers submit proof of residency?

Test centres will contact test takers asking them to provide proof of residency.

5. What if a test taker doesn't have proof of residency in the country where they want to take the test?

If a test taker does not meet the residency requirement, they could take IELTS on computer instead as this policy does not apply to that version of the test.

6. Does this change affect all IELTS test types (Academic, General Training)?

Yes, the new proof of residency requirement applies to all types of **IELTS on paper tests**: Academic, General Training, and IELTS for UKVI (United Kingdom Visas and Immigration).

7. Can a test taker still take the test if they are a visitor in the country or a tourist?

No, the policy specifies that a test taker must be a resident of the country for a minimum of three months. Visitors or tourists will not be able to take the test unless they have met this residency requirement.

8. Will test takers be refunded if they cannot provide proof of residency?

It's advisable to check with the test centre where the test was booked for specific refund policies in case you cannot meet the residency requirements.

9. How will this policy affect IELTS results?

This change does not affect the issuing of IELTS results. It is only relevant to the booking and verification process. As long as test takers meet the residency requirements and follow the correct procedure, their test results will be processed as usual.

10. What happens if proof of residency is rejected?

If proof of residency is rejected, test takers will be notified and asked to submit a different document. If they fail to provide acceptable proof, their test booking may be cancelled, and they may be required to rebook the test.

11. When will this policy come into effect?

The policy change will come into effect on the following dates:

10th December

- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Ghana
- Kazakhstan
- Mongolia
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- UAE
- Uzbekistan

14th January 2025

- All other countries worldwide (where applicable)

Test takers are encouraged to check their test centre's website for updates and detailed instructions on the new booking process.

For further assistance or questions about the booking process and residency requirements, [please contact your local IELTS test centre directly.](#)