

OET, IELTS, MEDICAL ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS TRAINING FOR DOCTORS



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Europe's first OET-accredited
Premium Provider



The CPD Standards Office
CPD PROVIDER: 50026
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About Specialist Language Courses (SLC)

Based at the University of Sussex, SLC is the UK’s leading provider of English language training to the global healthcare sector.

SLC trains hundreds of doctors and medical students every year to improve their medical communication skills so they can practice effectively in English or to pass the language and communication tests they need to register in the UK, Ireland, Australia and elsewhere.

What sets SLC apart

- By focusing on Medical English only, SLC has developed unparalleled expertise in materials development, course design, and teaching medical professionals in many different countries and settings.
- ✓ Unique portfolio of online Medical English courses used by hospitals, medical universities, healthcare recruitment companies and individuals around the world
 - ✓ Unique portfolio of OET and IELTS test preparation services, from level testing to tutoring to self-study to writing correction
 - ✓ Expert coaching in the medical communication skills needed to pass language tests such as PLAB and Simulated Surgery in the UK
 - ✓ Qualified, experienced teachers include ex-examiners, materials writers and teacher trainers
 - ✓ Courses are tailored to organisations and individuals in terms of content, structure, scheduling and reporting
 - ✓ Client list includes over 40 NHS Trusts, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England, private hospitals and medical universities around the world
 - ✓ Chosen by NHS England as sole provider for nationwide International GP Recruitment Programme
 - ✓ Train medical lecturers at universities to teach in English
 - ✓ SLC’s online Medical English courses accredited by CPD Standards Office and endorsed by EALTHY (European Association of Language Teachers for Healthcare)
 - ✓ First accredited OET Premium Preparation Provider in Europe





OET and IELTS

Medical regulatory bodies around the English-speaking world require international medical graduates to pass OET or IELTS to register as a doctor.

OET and IELTS are international English language tests with four parts - Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Doctors need a high score to demonstrate they can give safe and effective care in English.

OET

OET is a test of English for Healthcare.

Candidates listen to patient consultations, workplace conversations and medical talks; read a range of healthcare-related texts; write a referral letter; and participate in role plays as a doctor.

OET is scored from A (best) to E. In most countries, including the UK and Australia, doctors need to score a B grade in all four papers.

IELTS

IELTS is a test of Academic English.

Candidates listen to conversations in everyday and education settings as well as an academic lecture; answer questions on a range of academic texts; write a data report and an academic essay; give a presentation and answer questions on both familiar and abstract subjects.

IELTS is scored from 9.0 (best) to 0. In most countries, doctors need a 7.0 or above in the four papers. In the UK for example, the GMC requires doctors to score 7.5 overall with a minimum 7.0 in each paper.

BASIC		INTERMEDIATE		ADVANCED		CEFR
A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	
		4	4.5 5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 9			IELTS
				D C C+ B A		OET

What the scores mean

The OET and IELTS scores required are similar to each other in terms of language level. They represent an advanced or 'C1' level as measured by the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The CEFR is used around the world to describe competence.

At a C1 level, you can express yourself accurately with complex grammar and vocabulary, understand a wide range of high-level language, and use language effectively in social, academic and professional situations.

To achieve a C1 level in another language requires many hours of training and practice.



OET Preparation for Doctors



OET placement test

SLC's unique OET placement test enables accurate analysis of a candidate's level in the four papers of OET. This then enables us to recommend the right course structure and duration to prepare doctors to take the OET with confidence.

- ✓ Online assessment
- ✓ Easy to use
- ✓ Timed
- ✓ Writing is marked by an OET expert
- ✓ Speaking is conducted live in SLC's online classroom
- ✓ Accurate skill by skill reporting
- ✓ Training recommendations include hours of tuition, self-study options and when to book an official test



Small group and one-to-one OET coaching

We understand doctors are busy. When you book an OET coaching course with us, you get personalised inputs, flexible schedules and the freedom to meet emerging needs as the course evolves.

All courses include the following core features:

- ✓ Personalised tuition with an OET expert
- ✓ Pre-course needs analysis and briefing
- ✓ Flexible schedules and logistics
- ✓ Materials selected to match needs
- ✓ SLC's unique online Reach OET B Medicine study course
- ✓ Mock tests and review
- ✓ Exam strategies consolidation
- ✓ Support in booking the test



OET writing correction service

Many doctors find the OET Writing to be the most challenging of the four papers.

On SLC's writing correction service, OET candidates answer exam questions and receive detailed feedback, correction and suggestions for improvement.

One-to-one coaching can be booked in addition, so enabling a doctor to discuss their feedback in detail and get maximum value from the service.



Reach OET B Medicine online self-study

Written by internationally renowned OET expert, Virginia Allum, this online study course familiarises candidates with each paper and gives essential test techniques and strategies to use.

- ✓ 50 hours of input
- ✓ Paper by paper focus
- ✓ How to answer each question type
- ✓ What language you need to learn
- ✓ Step by step exam strategies
- ✓ Practice questions
- ✓ What to expect on the day

IELTS Preparation for Doctors



IELTS placement test

Written by an experienced IELTS test expert, SLC's IELTS placement test enables accurate analysis of a candidate's level in the four IELTS papers. This then enables us to recommend the right course structure and duration to prepare doctors to achieve the IELTS score they need in.

- ✓ Online assessment
- ✓ Easy to use
- ✓ Timed
- ✓ Writing is marked by an IELTS expert
- ✓ Speaking is conducted live in SLC's online classroom by an IELTS-trained examiner
- ✓ Accurate skill by skill reporting
- ✓ Training recommendations include hours of tuition, self-study options and when to book an official test



Small group and one-to-one IELTS coaching

We understand doctors are busy. When you book an IELTS coaching course with us, you get personalised inputs, flexible schedules and the freedom to meet emerging needs as the course evolves.

All courses include the following core features:

- ✓ Personalised tuition with an IELTS expert
- ✓ Pre-course needs analysis and briefing
- ✓ Flexible schedules and logistics
- ✓ Materials selected to match needs
- ✓ SLC's unique online Reach IELTS study course
- ✓ Mock tests and review
- ✓ Exam strategies consolidation
- ✓ Support in booking the test



IELTS writing correction service

Many doctors find the IELTS Writing to be the most challenging of the four papers. On SLC's writing correction service, IELTS candidates answer exam questions covering both parts of the paper and receive detailed feedback, correction and suggestions for improvement.

One-to-one coaching can be booked in addition, so enabling a doctor to discuss their feedback in detail and get maximum value from the service.



Reach IELTS online self-study

Written by IELTS expert, teacher, teacher trainer and materials designer, Annelie Phillips, this online course familiarises candidates with each paper in the Academic version of the IELTS test and gives essential test techniques and strategies to use on each part.

- ✓ 50 hours of input
- ✓ Paper by paper focus
- ✓ How to answer each question type
- ✓ What language you need to learn
- ✓ Step by step exam strategies
- ✓ Practice questions
- ✓ What to expect on the day





Medical Communication Skills Training

SLC trains international doctors to communicate clearly, sensitively and effectively in English.

Gathering information from patients, addressing concerns, explaining diagnoses and discussing treatments is difficult to do in a second language, no matter how advanced a speaker a doctor is. Conversations require empathy, nuance and clarity.

SLC's medical communication skills courses are tailored to individuals and small groups. Content may cover a wide range of topics, including the following:

- ✓ Explaining diagnosis, investigation and treatment
- ✓ Involving the patient in the decision-making
- ✓ Communicating with relatives
- ✓ Communicating with health care professionals
- ✓ Breaking bad news
- ✓ Seeking informed consent for an invasive procedure
- ✓ Dealing with anxious patients or relatives
- ✓ Giving instructions on discharge from hospital
- ✓ Giving advice on lifestyle, health promotion or risk factors



PLAB and Simulated Surgery test preparation

At SLC, we train doctors to communicate so they meet the PLAB 2 and Simulated Surgery assessment criteria in the UK.

These include linguistic criteria, focusing on grammatical and lexical accuracy, communicative effectiveness, demonstrating professionalism and articulating an understanding of ethical principles.

Medical English Courses for Doctors – Online Self-study

SLC offers a unique portfolio of online Medical English courses written for doctors and medical students.

These courses are written by experts and used by healthcare professionals and students around the world to improve their ability to work, study, research and communicate in an English-language environment.



English for Doctors: Advanced Communication Skills

- ✓ Medical terminology and hospital English
- ✓ Clinical interactions and communication strategies
- ✓ 100 hours of content
- ✓ Upper intermediate and advanced level



English for Medical Academic Purposes

- ✓ Reading research and listening to lectures
- ✓ Writing academic papers and giving presentations
- ✓ 50 hours of content
- ✓ Upper-intermediate level



Medical Terminology

- ✓ Learn hundreds of essential medical terms and patterns
- ✓ Pronunciation guides and contextual practice
- ✓ 30 hours of content
- ✓ Intermediate level

All courses are accredited by the CPD Standards Office and endorsed by EALTHY.

The CPD Standards Office
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What our clients say



“ABUHB has been extremely pleased with the English language tuition service provided by SLC. It has, in its entirety, met the requirements of the contract procured in a cohesive way.”

Dr. Lyn Middleton, Associate Director of Nursing,
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board



“We were delighted with the results achieved through SLC for our candidates undertaking the OET. It’s proven to us that distance learning can be highly effective in supporting them to study and pass their English Language qualification and reducing the number of attempts and costs... We would recommend this training programme to all our hospital partners.”

Michael Joyce, Divisional Manager, King's Commercial,
part of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



“The teaching techniques are perfect. This course is the best way to prepare you for the OET exam.”

Cristina Guerrero Camacho, individual doctor



SLC is digital-first

We use online classrooms to give lessons. SLC’s expert teachers work with learners wherever they are, from the UK and Europe to India to the Middle East. Schedules are flexible and organised around shifts and time zones. Learners simply login, saving time and travel costs. Lessons are given on Zoom, award-winning classroom software used by thousands of universities and teaching organisations around the world.

We publish OET, IELTS and Medical English courses online. We deliver assessments and practice tests online. All content is hosted on cutting edge learning management software, delivering great learner experience. Scores and progress are tracked and reported. Courses can be branded, customised and commissioned.

We understand not everybody loves technology as much as we do, so we provide dedicated and free technical support for all our learners.

