

IELTS vs TIE Exam

Overview

Both IELTS and TIE are English language exams, but they serve **different purposes**. - **IELTS** is an internationally recognised exam mainly used for **university entry, work, and migration**. - **TIE** is an Irish exam focused on **practical communication**, widely used in Ireland for **English course completion and visa/study requirements**.

Comparison Table

Category	IELTS	TIE
Full name	International English Language Testing System	Test of Interactive English
Recognition	Worldwide	Mainly Ireland
Main purpose	Higher education, professional use, immigration	General English assessment, Irish study/visa purposes
Skills tested	Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking	Writing and Speaking (interactive, task-based)
Exam format	4 papers + face-to-face speaking test	Written paper + interactive oral exam
Exam length	Approx. 2 hours 45 minutes	Approx. 1.5–2 hours
Scoring	Band score 1–9	CEFR levels A1–C2
Focus	Academic and formal English (Academic version)	Practical, real-life communication
Best suited for	University entry, professional registration, migration	English course certification and Irish immigration needs

CHOOSING YOUR FINAL EXAM

(Visa Students – Mandatory Requirement)

END-OF-COURSE EXAM OPTIONS

IELTS

International English Language Testing System



Best for:

- ✓ Students who want to go to university (Ireland or internationally)



Recognition:

- ✓ Universities, colleges, employers worldwide



Focus:

- ✓ Academic and formal English



Skills tested:

- ✓ Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking



Cost:

- ✓ Slightly more expensive*

TIE

Test of Interactive English



Best for:

- ✓ Students continuing English studies in Ireland or meeting immigration requirements



Recognition:

- ✓ Irish immigration and English language schools



Focus:

- ✓ Practical, real-life communication



Skills tested:

- ✓ Writing + Speaking (portfolio + interview)



Cost:

- ✓ Slightly cheaper*

KEY MESSAGE



Want to go to university? → Choose **IELTS**



Staying in Ireland to study English? → **TIE** is sufficient



Prefer an everyday communication exam? → **TIE** may be more suitable

**Prices are confirmed with exam centres at the time of student booking.*