**IELTS Type for Single and Joint CAS - A Summary of the Changes made on 6 April 2015**

Colleagues will be aware from previous bulletin items over the past month that changes have been made to IELTS from 6 April 2015, with a differentiation made by the UKVI between the ‘IELTS Academic test’ and the ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test.

For students who will apply for a Tier 4 visa to study courses below degree level (e.g. pre-sessional English), the UKVI requires that test takers select the ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test. To help students and institutions transition to this new arrangement, the UKVI will continue to accept IELTS tests taken before 6 April 2015. This concession is in place until 5 November 2015. After 5 November, visa applicants for courses that are below degree level will only be able to use the ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test result as evidence of their English language in their Tier 4 visa application.

For degree-level study, the UKVI permits higher education institutions to vouch for English language and the ‘IELTS Academic’ test is now on the University’s B2 vouch list.

We have received several queries from Schools about these changes to IELTS. In addition to answering individual queries, we have also put together this summary to assist colleagues in applying the guidance:

| Course and CAS type | Use of IELTS to meet English Language Requirements of UKVI |
| --- | --- |
| Degree course only study (single CAS).  This category includes degree courses with an integrated foundation year (i.e. 4 or 5 year CAS) | The student can use:   * An IELTS test taken before 6 April 2015 that is no more than 2 years old on the start date of the course * An ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test taken after 6 April 2015 * An ‘IELTS Academic’ test taken after 6 April 2015, because this qualification is now on the University’s vouch list of qualifications |
| International Foundation Year students that have elected for a one year CAS to cover the foundation year only (single CAS) | The student can use:   * An IELTS test taken before 6 April 2015 that is no more than 2 years old on the start date of the course. This is a concession by the UKVI for this type of student that is only available for visa applications made before 5 November 2015. * An ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test taken after 6 April 2015.   These students cannot be issued a CAS on the basis of a University B2 vouch list qualification. |
| Pre-sessional English course + degree (Joint CAS) | The student can use:   * An IELTS test taken before 6 April 2015 that is no more than 2 years old on the start date of the course. This is a concession by the UKVI for this type of student that is only available for visa applications made before 5 November 2015. * An ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test taken after 6 April 2015.   The University’s B2 vouch list cannot currently be used for these students. We will inform Schools through this bulletin and our intranet of any change to this policy. |
| Pre-sessional course or Gateway English course (single CAS) | The student can use:   * An IELTS test taken before 6 April 2015 that is no more than 2 years old on the start date of the course. This is a concession by the UKVI for this type of student that is only available for visa applications made before 5 November 2015. * An ‘IELTS for UKVI’ test taken after 6 April 2015.   These students cannot be issued a CAS on the basis of a University B2 vouch list qualification. |

If you need further assistance in understanding the changes to IELTS, or with any other English language for visa issue, please contact [visa@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:visa@manchester.ac.uk)