

RCVS English language competence requirements for the statutory membership examination

1. Before you can apply to sit the statutory membership examination, you must meet our English language competence requirements. To do so, you must sit an **academic IELTS¹** English test and obtain an **overall band score of at least 7.0 and also a score of at least 7.0 in each of the four parts (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) of your test²**.
2. RCVS accepts scores for the academic IELTS English test but doesn't accept any other English test scores. Our requirements apply to everybody who wishes to sit our examination. **There are no exemptions or exceptions.**
3. You must send us your IELTS test report form (TRF) so that we can verify your test scores. We need an **original** TRF or a good quality, full size scanned copy (JPEG or PDF) in order to carry out our checks. We can't accept photocopies. We'll email you after we've checked your TRF to confirm that you may apply for our examination.
4. When you book to sit your IELTS test, please arrange for your test centre to send your test report form direct to RCVS³. If you have scores, which meet our requirements, for a test you took less than two years ago please send us your TRF at the same time as you declare your intention to sit our examination - further information about this process is on the RCVS website at:
<http://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/statutory-membership-exam/rcvs-requirements-for-intention-to-sit-and-seeing-practice-forms/>

If you plan to apply for the 2015 statutory membership examination:

5. The latest possible date for receipt by RCVS of your IELTS TRF for verification is 30 January 2015.
6. If we have already accepted your score, you will have to **repeat the academic IELTS test and send us your new TRF** if:
 - you have attempted our examination one or more times but your IELTS test score is for a test that you sat more than 5 years ago
 - you haven't attempted our examination but your score is now out-of-date i.e. your score is for a test that you sat more than 2 years ago
7. Existing candidates, whose IELTS score has been accepted by RCVS, will be given one year to comply with the new requirement for level 7.0 in all four parts of the academic IELTS test. However, if you intend to re-sit in 2015 and you have a score of less than 7.0 for any of the parts (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) of your IELTS test, please contact the examination administrator before submitting your 2015 examination application.
8. All candidates for the 2016 examination onwards will have to meet our requirements in full.

¹ IELTS – International English Language Testing System. For information about where you can sit your academic English test, visit the IELTS website at www.ielts.org

² With immediate effect for new applicants and before applying to sit the 2016 exam for existing candidates who have to re-sit our exam

³ Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF, UK