

ALMAENGLISH FAQs

A.Y. 2020/2021 – 1st Semester

Participants

I am a PhD student/fellow/researcher/professor: can I participate in the AlmaEnglish project?

No. The AlmaEnglish project is only for students enrolled in first, second and single cycle degree programmes and for the technical and administrative staff of the University of Bologna.

I am a student enrolled for single course units/master/specialization school/post-graduate programmes: can I participate in the AlmaEnglish project?

No. The AlmaEnglish project is only for students enrolled in first, second or single cycle degree programmes.

Placement test

I will graduate soon: can I book an AlmaEnglish placement test?

For the first semester of 2020-2021, you can book the test if you do not apply to graduate in September/October/November/December 2020.

For the second semester of 2020-2021, you can book the test if you do not apply to graduate in February/March/April/May 2021.

I already have an international language proficiency certificate: do I still need to do the placement test?

Yes. The initial placement test of linguistic ability must be taken as part of the AlmaEnglish selection process. No language certificates/qualifications of any kind are accepted in place of this test.

I have passed the Unibo internal English B1/B2 proficiency test ('idoneità'). Do I still need to do the placement test?

Yes. The placement test is an essential selection tool for checking initial skills, so that students can be assigned to the appropriate class for their level. Therefore, the test must be taken.

I have already successfully completed an AlmaEnglish non-certification course at level B1++. To continue to the next level, do I need to book and take the placement test again?

No, students who continue from the previous semester can enrol directly for the next module on the date published on the website.

I am a student on the second cycle degree programme in “Applied cognitive psychology”. The booking system shows the AlmaEnglish placement test in Romagna, but my degree programme is taught in Bologna. What should I do?

You need to book the placement test in Romagna and, at the same time, send an e-mail to the AlmaEnglish Help Desk (almaenglish@unibo.it).

I am a student in the second year of the second cycle degree programme in Civil Engineering, curriculum: Offshore Engineering. The booking system shows the AlmaEnglish placement test in Bologna, but my degree programme is taught in Ravenna. What should I do?

You need to book the placement test in Bologna and, at the same time, send an e-mail to the AlmaEnglish Help Desk (almaenglish@unibo.it).

I am a student in the second year of the second cycle degree programme in Economics and management, curriculum: Food System Management. The booking system shows the AlmaEnglish placement test in Romagna, but my degree programme is taught in Bologna. What should I do?

You need to book the placement test in Romagna and, at the same time, send an e-mail to the AlmaEnglish Help Desk (almaenglish@unibo.it).

I have booked the AlmaEnglish placement test, but now I have other academic commitments on that date/time. Can I change the date/session of my booking?

Students must respect the booked date and session start time specified in the PDF file generated by Studenti Online and in the booking confirmation e-mail sent automatically by the system to their institutional e-mail address.

By mistake, I cancelled my booking for the AlmaEnglish placement test. Can I still sit the test?
No, you cannot sit the test without a valid booking.

The places available for the AlmaEnglish placement test are already taken. What should I do?
You can book the test if places become available later, before the end of the booking period, as a result of cancellations.

What documents are needed in order to sit the AlmaEnglish placement test?

Candidates must bring with them an original, valid identity document (identity card or passport) and their University badge. They cannot sit the test without them. The identity card must be a valid original document without any damage i.e. not ripped or stuck together with adhesive tape. There is no need to print and present the test booking confirmation.

I have arrived late. Can I still join the Zoom meeting?

Candidates must respect the date and time of their test booking and arrive a few minutes before the session start time. They cannot sit the test if they arrive late.

What does the AlmaEnglish placement test involve?

The placement test has two sections – *Use of English* and *Listening*. The *Use of English* section assesses students' knowledge of grammatical form and vocabulary. The *Listening* section assesses students' general listening ability.

I have sat the AlmaEnglish placement Test: can I obtain an attestation of the level reached in the test? Can I use the test result for other purposes (e.g. recognition of proficiency, application for Erasmus etc.)?

No. The placement test is a computer-based test whose results are used for selection purposes solely in the context of the AlmaEnglish project.

I have sat the AlmaEnglish placement test: can I see my test?

You cannot see your test, but you will be told immediately what level you obtained. The level obtained is one of the selection criteria, among others. The selection criteria are specified on the website.

I have sat the AlmaEnglish placement test: will I be told immediately if I can be admitted to the AlmaEnglish project?

No, the list of those admitted will be published on the date indicated on the website.

Courses

Does AlmaEnglish include e-learning courses?

In the 1st semester 2020-2021 AlmaEnglish courses will be offered both online and in the classroom.

Do the courses and certification have a cost?

No. The courses and certification are all completely free of charge.

I have been admitted to an AlmaEnglish course, but I have already paid for an English course at the University Language Centre. Can I still participate in AlmaEnglish?

Yes; however, if you have already enrolled for another language course, the fee paid cannot be returned.

Can I choose the time of my AlmaEnglish course?

If several courses at the same level are activated, you can choose from among those available, unless the places are already taken.

What is the maximum number of absences allowed?

For admission to the certification or end-of-course test, it is necessary to attend at least 70% of the lessons, excepting special circumstances and justifiable reasons that will be evaluated by the teacher.

I was absent due to other lessons/university exams/work/illness/medical examinations/internship etc. Can I justify my absence?

No, the justification of absences is not envisaged.

If I have exceeded the maximum number of absences, can I still continue to attend the course, even though I do not intend to sit the certification or end-of-course test?

No. The overall objective of the AlmaEnglish course is to obtain an international language proficiency certificate.

I have exceeded the maximum number of absences/do not intend to continue the course. What should I do?

Students who decide to abandon the course must send a withdrawal e-mail to the AlmaEnglish Help Desk (almaenglish@unibo.it) so that they can be removed from the class.

If I need to withdraw from the course due to timetable conflicts with University lessons or curricula internships, can I retake the placement test in the next semester?

Yes. If students withdraw from the course, they can retake the placement test in the following semester and participate in the selection process again.

I have attended a non-certification course/sat the final test of a non-certification course: can I request a certificate of attendance and/or competency?

No. Non-certification courses with internal final exams do not issue certificates, as the objective of the AlmaEnglish project is to obtain an international language proficiency certificate.

Can I continue the AlmaEnglish training after graduation or after withdrawing from studies?

No. The AlmaEnglish project is a language learning opportunity offered to students who have not yet completed their studies. Your student status and opportunity to participate in AlmaEnglish is lost on graduation day or on your withdrawal from studies, unless you then enrol for other first, second or single cycle degree programmes at the University of Bologna.

International language proficiency certification

What type of certification can be obtained by participating in the AlmaEnglish project? Does the certification expire?

The certification available via the AlmaEnglish project is [IELTS Academic](#). The official duration of the IELTS certificate is two years from issue. However, individual institutions that recognise qualifications are free to accept a certificate even after the two-year validity period.

I am attending an AlmaEnglish course at a Romagna campus. Can I sit the certification test at my campus?

No, all certification tests are sat in Bologna.

When will the certification results become available?

The IELTS test results will be made available on-line two weeks after the test date. You will be informed about how to access your results during the certification test.

Candidates who have sat the certification test will be told by e-mail when they can collect their certificate from the administrative office of the University Language Centre at their location, as soon as the hard-copy certificate becomes available.

How does the IELTS score correspond to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages?

A conversion table is available on the website of the British Council at the webpage <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/teach-ielts/test-information/scores-explained>.

If I obtain an IELTS certificate with AlmaEnglish, can I request its recognition for the English language proficiency included in my study plan?

Yes, the certificate may be recognised as equivalent to the language proficiency test, if the same or higher level is achieved.

I have obtained Trinity ISE I or Cambridge English Preliminary (PET) within the AlmaEnglish programme: can I still attend the courses?

Yes, you have an opportunity to obtain an IELTS Academic certificate by resitting the placement test and participating in the selection process again.

I have obtained an IELTS certificate within the AlmaEnglish programme: can I still attend the courses?

No. There are no further training and/or certification opportunities via the AlmaEnglish project after obtaining IELTS certification. This facilitates participation in the project by persons who have not yet benefited from it.

I attended the AlmaEnglish IELTS preparation course, I was admitted to the test but I did not take the certifying exam. Can I take part in the AlmaEnglish project again?

No, if you are not registered for the IELTS test, or are unjustifiably absent on the day of examination, no further opportunities for training/certification via the AlmaEnglish project are envisaged.