

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Fall 2021 EET

What is the EET?

The English Evaluation Test (EET) is a diagnostic test of academic English that is given before each semester at the request of the Office of Graduate Education. MIT's English Language Studies program (ELS) administers the EET, which is designed for entering international graduate students from non-English-language academic backgrounds. The exam identifies weaknesses in academic speaking and writing English that may interfere with course work, teaching, and research at MIT.

This August (2021), the EET will be delivered remotely. It is composed of two parts:

Part 1: A reading and writing task, submitted online; and

Part 2: A short interview conducted via Zoom.

The entire test will be administered through a Canvas site at MIT—<https://canvas.mit.edu/courses/11707>—which is now active and contains this information as well, although the links for the two parts of the test are not yet active but will be shortly.

When do new graduate students take the EET for Fall 2021?

Students will have access to Part I of the EET (the writing task) from **Thursday, August 26, to Sunday, August 29**, with submissions due no later than **11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on August 29**.

For Part 2 (the interview), each student must sign up for an interview appointment (10 minutes) that will take place via Zoom from **Monday, August 30, through Wednesday, September, 2021**.

Who takes the EET?

The Institute requires all entering international graduate students to take the EET if their primary language of instruction was not English from the age of six through high school.

A student does not need to take the EET if s/he has attended all schooling from the age of six in English. Many students from India, Malaysia, Singapore and other Asian countries, as well as African and Caribbean countries such as South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and St. Lucia fall into this category.

International students who would normally be required to take the EET but have already done undergraduate or Master's degrees at MIT or at other comparable universities can discuss **with their departmental advisors** the possibility of waiving the EET requirement.

Why do new international graduate students take the EET?

The Committee on Graduate Programs (CGP) requires newly admitted international graduate students to take the English Evaluation Test (EET) to determine the current level of their academic English skills. Standardized English tests like TOEFL are not

considered a reliable measure of academic communicative competence.

From the moment they enter the Institute, graduate students are expected to be productive members of a lively research community. They are involved in some or all of the following activities: participating in interactive seminars; completing coursework that requires presentations and research reports; teaching recitation or lab sections; interacting with representatives of industry; presenting research to peers, sponsors, and experts at meetings and conferences; as well as writing proposals, reports and journal papers. Few international students have experience with these types of communication tasks in English. Many have little experience even in their first languages. The EET provides new students and their advisors with information to help them prepare for success in their graduate activities at MIT.

Who enforces the EET?

Individual departments determine their policies regarding the EET. Members of the English Language Program **are not responsible** for regulations concerning who takes the exam, whether students act on any recommended course work, or what happens if an international student is unable to take the EET before the start of the semester.

Do I need to register in advance in order to take the EET?

No, simply go to the Canvas site and follow the instructions: <https://canvas.mit.edu/courses/11707>.

When are the results available?

All the results of the Fall 2021 EET will be available the week before Registration Day. Results for each department will be emailed to departmental administrators. Students will receive individual emails with their results and any recommendations.

What do the results mean?

The EET results are strictly informative; there is no “passing” or “failing.” Students taking the EET have been admitted to MIT; the test results will not affect their status as admitted students. A student’s EET results may indicate that:

1. One or more academic English skills are weak enough to need immediate attention (*inadequate*). A particular course is strongly recommended. Departmental policy and a student’s advisor decide whether and when a student will act on the recommendation.
2. One or more academic English skills will benefit from attention (*limited*) but problems with English may not interfere with first year activities at MIT. Registering for a particular course is recommended for a future semester.
3. A student’s academic English skills are proficient (*adequate*) for engaging fully in studies and research. No course work is recommended.

Whom should I contact with questions about the EET and English Language Studies?

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