



LEARNING TO INSPIRE

English as an Additional Language Assessment Early Childhood Centre

UNIS Hanoi EAL Policy

Our diverse community represents an array of languages and cultures and many of our students are non-native English speakers who participate in the English as an Additional Language (EAL) programme. The EAL programme offers language support to students enrolling into the Early Childhood Centre through to grade 8. School policy limits the number of EAL students in each grade level which helps to maintain a strong language-learning environment.

EAL Classifications and Levels of Support

EAL Beginner	EAL Intermediate	EAL Advanced
2 pull-out classes with the EAL teacher and support in class.	EAL teacher provides in class support 4-6 times a week.	EAL teacher provides in class support 4-6 times a week.

The Assessment

The [WIDA Access Placement Test \(W-APT\)](#) for K1 and K2 students takes up to 30 minutes depending on the student's language ability. The higher the English level, the longer the test will take. The W-APT is a globally administered assessment tool that is used in many international schools. This is a skills based test so there is nothing to prepare ahead of time. The EAL teacher does everything possible to make the child feel comfortable. If your child is sick on the day of the assessment, it is best to reschedule the test. Children should arrive well rested and alert. For Discovery screening, the EAL teacher will provide a selection of language games to encourage play. EAL levels are determined by W-APT results, children's oral responses to questions and their ability to follow directions. If invited for testing, the format for your child's age groups is as follows:

Grades	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
Discovery	Group Play Based Screening	Group Play Based Screening	not applicable	not applicable
Kindergarten 1	W-APT	W-APT	not applicable	not applicable
Kindergarten 2	W-APT	W-APT	W-APT (Jan-June)	W-APT (Jan-June)

Understanding test results

Families should expect test results between 2-5 working days depending on time of year. Advanced students may be retested 6 months after the initial assessment if they are in a position for placement. Children who are assessed as Intermediate or Beginner level students may only be invited for further testing 12 months after the initial assessment or as determined by the School. English level will be determined by the School.

Differences between social and academic language

Social language is the language children use when playing with friends or having casual conversations. Social language takes 3-5 years to develop. Often times when a child has highly proficient social language it can appear that they are not in need of English language support. Academic language is necessary for success in school. It is the language needed to understand academic content. This takes 5-7 years to develop. At UNIS Hanoi we are assessing both academic and social language; however there is a strong emphasis on academic language proficiency.