

English as an Additional Language Assessment Grade 1 to Grade 5

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
4-6 pull-out classes with the EAL teacher.	2-3 pull-out classes with the EAL teacher.	No pull-out classes.
EAL teacher provides support in the homeroom.	EAL teacher provides support in the homeroom.	EAL teacher provides support in the homeroom.
Students are not enrolled in Home Language or World Language classes.	Students are encouraged to enroll in Home Language but World Language classes are available.	Students are able to enroll in either Home Language or World Language classes.

The Assessment

The [WIDA Access Placement Test \(W-APT\)](#) takes up to 90 minutes depending on the student's language ability. The W-APT is a globally administered assessment tool that is used in many international schools. The higher the English level the longer the test will take. This is a skills based test so there is nothing to prepare ahead of time. If your child is sick on the date of the assessment, it is best to reschedule the test. Children should arrive well rested and alert. The EAL teacher does everything possible to make the child feel comfortable. If invited for testing, the format for your child's age groups is as follows:

Grades	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
G1 & G2	Individual test	Individual test	Individual test	Individual test
G3 to G5	Individual test	Group test	Group test	Group test

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 with adults. 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.