Working in the international education space - Broadening of English language requirements for skilled work visas
Overview

- Some background: Additional English tests for student visa purposes introduced in late 2011
- Uptake of TOEFL iBT® scores for admission in Australia
- Changes to DIBP English language requirements for skilled migration
- The English language challenges around graduate employability – some recent research and commentary
- Questions?
Uptake of TOEFL iBT scores for admission in Australia

- DIBP introduced three new approved tests in late 2011
- 2013 saw a significant increase in TOEFL iBT scores being presented for admission in Australia
- Scores from over 100 countries were received
- Key sources of TOEFL scores included major markets especially China, India and Brazil
- In some key markets, TOEFL iBT is the dominant test eg Korea, Japan, Central and South America.
- Students invest in one English test option and tend to choose destinations that accept that test option
- Free, easy-to-use online verification service is available to all institutions for TOEFL iBT
English requirements for skilled migration

- From **November 2014**, choice of four English tests to meet skilled visa requirements (including post study work visas and permanent residence) for about 25 visa subclasses (except 457 which is under Review)

- **IELTS, OET, TOEFL iBT and Pearson PTE can be used.**

- Only applicants from five countries are exempt in most circumstances from English testing – UK, US, NZ, Canada and Ireland.

- DIBP FAQs providing the required scores and a list of the visa subclasses this change will apply to are at: [http://www.immi.gov.au/News/Pages/aelt.aspx](http://www.immi.gov.au/News/Pages/aelt.aspx)
English requirements for 485 visas

- Minimum English language test requirements for 485 visas:
  - IELTS – No subtest below 6
  - OET – No subtests below B
  - TOEFL iBT – No skill score below Listening – 12, Reading 13, Writing – 21, Speaking – 18
  - Pearson PTE – No subtest below 50
English test validity dates for DIBP

- Student visa – Up to **2 years** from test date
- Skilled migration visa – Up to **3 years** from test date
- However most professional bodies use **2 years** for their English requirements
Recent research has shown:

- **Employer resistance** to employing international graduates
- Students with strong English language skills are more likely to adjust culturally
- Students with stronger language skills are more likely to obtain a job
- Students can benefit from various “on the job” opportunities to improve their English proficiency
Thank you

Questions?

Helen Cook
Associate Director, Client Relations
ETS TOEFL

hcobok@etsglobal.org