

New English language requirement for partners

The Home Office has recently issued information declaring that as from Autumn 2010, changes will be made to the Immigration rules.

The rules will state that migrants need to be able to show they can speak and understand English as the partner of a British Citizen or a person settled in the UK.

Further information for our clients and potential clients:

- You will be required to undertake an English language test with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers if you are not from a majority English-speaking country.
- Although you and your partner will not need to demonstrate reading and writing skills, according to the Home Office website the test will be speaking and listening based, at Level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference. This means that you or your partner will need to understand and speak basic phrases and expressions, between about 40-50 hours of tuition.
- When you pass the test, you will need to provide the Home Office with evidence you have passed in order to proceed with your application.
- You will need to pay for your test and the cost may vary depending on your test provider and your country.

An English test may not be required if you are a national of one of the following countries:

Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America.

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The Home Office intends to publish the official date of the rule change and details of acceptable tests and approved test providers in the near future on their website:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

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If you need any further information about matters in this information sheet, please do not hesitate to contact us

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