



**Helping you to deliver ...**

## **ESOL for Work**

Cambridge ESOL is pleased to announce that it has submitted a new suite of ESOL for Work qualifications for accreditation by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Accreditation is anticipated by the end of July 2007, and the new qualifications will be available for centres to use from the autumn of 2007. For eligible learners, the tests will attract Learning and Skills Council funding.

In order to ensure relevance and reliability, Cambridge ESOL is basing its ESOL for Work provision on a well established, work-related ESOL assessment which has already had thousands of successful candidates and hundreds of satisfied providers around the world.

With this starting point, the new qualifications have been developed to meet the needs of employers in the UK, supporting migrant and settled workers who are in work or intending to work in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

### **What areas and levels do the new qualifications cover, and how long are the tests?**

The Cambridge ESOL approach to ESOL for Work recognises the “spiky profile” which may exist across the receptive and productive language skills. The three modes have therefore been designed to cover:

- **Reading and Listening;**
- **Writing;**
- **Speaking.**

The assessments measure candidates’ language proficiency in terms of the English they need to use and understand in the workplace. The three separate modes are made up of a Reading and Listening test, which is taken online, a Writing test, which is taken on paper, and a Speaking test, which is taken face-to-face. Topics and tasks are work-focussed and are relevant and recognisable to candidates as relating to the ways in which they need to use or respond to language in their working lives in the UK.

#### **Reading and Listening**

ESOL for Work Reading and Listening is a Computer Adaptive Test, which means that the test adapts to the level of the candidate. The test is supported by a large bank of secure tasks and provides a more accurate assessment of

candidate ability in a shorter space of time than a paper-based or non-adaptive test is able to. The precise length of the test will vary from candidate to candidate depending upon level of ability. The typical length of the test is 50-60 minutes.

### **Speaking**

ESOL for Work Speaking is a one-to-one, face-to-face test lasting approximately 12 minutes. It comprises an interview, where the candidate listens and responds; a short presentation, where the candidate speaks to communicate; and a task involving information exchange and engagement in discussion.

### **Writing**

ESOL for Work Writing is comprised of two tasks: the first, a short message or letter; and the second, a longer letter or report. Candidates are given a choice of two tasks for the longer response. The Writing test takes 45 minutes.

At each level, the Certificates in ESOL for Work require up to 150 guided learning hours.

## **What levels and what units will be available?**

The ESOL for Work tests developed by Cambridge ESOL measure across all levels from Entry Level 1 to Level 3 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). They also measure across all levels of the Council of Europe Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL), from A1 (Elementary) to C2 (Mastery).

Candidates can take each ESOL for Work mode (Reading and Listening, Speaking, and Writing) separately. For each mode completed, they receive a test report form with their scores, reported as NQF and CEFRL levels. When they complete all three modes, they receive a certificate if they achieved an overall NQF Entry 3 or Level 1, at which levels the qualification is currently accredited and funded.

ESOL for Work recognises that learners may have Speaking, Listening and Reading skills in advance of their Writing skills. The overall Entry 3 or Level 1 certificates are therefore awarded to candidates whose Writing skills have been assessed at one level below their achievements in the other units.

## **The flexibility to deliver**

The administration and scheduling of the examinations will be entirely in the hands of centres, giving them the maximum flexibility to run the assessments when the learners are ready and available, and when it is most convenient for centres, learners and their sponsors.

In detail:

### **Reading and Listening**

Reading and Listening will be assessed on computer, and the marking and grading will take place automatically, meaning immediate results.

### **Writing**

Centres will receive multiple versions of the examination and will manage their administration. The completed scripts are marked by centre personnel, whose background must match up to minimum professional requirements and who must first undergo self-access examiner training and standardisation. Candidate Writing scripts are sent back to Cambridge ESOL for processing and for quality assurance purposes, including the monitoring of marking standards by senior examiners.

### **Speaking**

The Speaking assessment takes the form of a one-to-one interview between the candidate and an examiner from the centre, who has been trained to undertake the role using a Cambridge ESOL self-access pack. The interview is recorded, and a second examiner also awards marks on the candidate's performance. The marks and the recordings are sent to Cambridge for processing and monitoring of marking standards by senior examiners.

All Speaking and Writing examiners have to successfully complete a standardisation exercise to show that they can mark to acceptable standards in order to be eligible to examine.

## **Why choose Cambridge ESOL?**

To learners, tutors, providers and employers, Cambridge ESOL offers more: more help for centres, more support for teachers and administrators, and more benefits for learners and employers.

The ESOL for Work provision gives centres complete flexibility in the scheduling of tests and immediate or very fast results.

Cambridge ESOL is the leading provider of English language qualifications in the UK, and its expertise in developing work-related assessments is reflected in their recognition by such employers as Unilever, Buckingham Foods Ltd, Sheraton Hotels, Netto Foodstores Ltd, and many many more.

## **If you want to deliver Cambridge ESOL's Certificates in ESOL for Work ...**

Following QCA accreditation we will be inviting applications from centres wishing to deliver this new qualification. Whether you are already a Cambridge ESOL centre and want to add ESOL for Work to the exams you can offer, or whether you want to join the Cambridge ESOL network for the first time, we look forward to working with you.