

Press Release

PEARSON LAUNCHES SUPPORT SERVICE FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN RESPONSE TO CRITERIA CHANGES FOR UK STUDENT VISAS

LONDON: 9 May 2011

Pearson has launched a dedicated PTE (Pearson Test of English) Academic support service to help UK colleges and universities manage some of the challenges posed by changes to the UKBA's criteria for Tier 4 student visa applications. The service includes a telephone helpline, a seminar on the new Tier 4 English Proficiency requirement for UK student visas and increased test date availability so that institutions can be sure that all their applicants can get access to a SELT.

The criteria changes, which came into effect on 21 April, require that students demonstrate English language proficiency at B1 or B2 on the Common European Framework, depending on the course level. Students applying for courses below NQF Level 6 and all students applying to private institutions need to provide evidence of English language proficiency through a Secure English Language Test (SELT).

Pearson is pleased to announce that PTE Academic continues to satisfy the Government's criteria for secure English language testing under the Points Based System and is listed as an approved SELT for Tier 4 student applications. Pearson is working closely and in partnership with institutions and international advisors to make PTE Academic available where and when it is required. The test is delivered on a flexible basis throughout the international network of Pearson centres. To see a full list of the countries where the test is currently offered, see <http://pearsonpte.com/centers>

In addition to increasing test availability to support international recruitment, Pearson will also host a one-day seminar in association with BALEAP (The British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes) on 25 May. Designed for UK university admissions and English language professionals, the event will provide an introduction to the Common European Framework, in the context of Tier 4, presented by industry experts.

Emma Stubbs, Senior Vice-President, Language Testing comments "We are delighted that PTE Academic continues to satisfy the Government's criteria for the testing of English language proficiency and so will remain on the approved list of test providers for student visa applications.

An important part of our tailored service for institutions is to listen and respond to what the market requires to help support international student recruitment. Our high level of service and flexible approach to meeting the needs of colleges and universities, combined with our fast, reliable and accessible test, place us in a strong and unique position to be able to help UK institutions through this period of change."

For more information visit www.pearsonpte.com/visachanges

ENDS

Notes for editors:

For press enquiries contact:

Natalie Clark, natalie.clark@pearson.com +44 (0)20 7010 2636/+44 (0)7841 363186

Fran Bayley, fran.bayley@pearson.com +44 (0)20 7010 2633

About PTE Academic

PTE Academic was launched in late 2009 by Pearson and has rapidly built up acceptance from the world's renowned colleges, universities, training providers and student services across the English-speaking world. These include London Business School, Harvard Business School, Yale University, INSEAD and other Russell Group universities. PTE Academic is formally accredited by OFQUAL.

More than 2300 academic programmes now accept or are in the process of accepting PTE Academic scores. For a full list of recognising colleges and universities visit www.pearsonpte.com/whoaccepts

Test takers can schedule their appointment 48 hours before their test and results are delivered within 5 business days. The test has been rapidly rolled out worldwide and is already being delivered in Pearson's network of test centres including China, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, UK, South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

About Pearson International

At Pearson, we take learning personally. Our courses and resources are available as books, online and via multi-lingual packages, helping people learn whatever, wherever and however they choose.

Pearson is the world's leading learning company. Our portfolio includes Penguin, Dorling Kindersley, the *Financial Times* and our educational business, Pearson International. Imprints including Longman and Prentice Hall combine 150 years of experience with online support for every learner.

We provide education and assessment services in over 60 countries. Products such as the MyLabs are changing educational practice worldwide.