

## **Press release**

### **BUSINESS ENGLISH UK TO OFFER BULATS IN 400 CENTRES**

**Cambridge, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009:** Cambridge ESOL, part of the University of Cambridge and the world's leading provider of language assessment, today announced a new collaboration which will mean schools will be able to test language skills quicker and more easily at over 400 locations throughout the UK.

The agreement between Cambridge ESOL and English UK, the world leader in language teaching, will see the Business Language Testing Service (BULATS) being made available in 426 centres nationwide. This collaboration not only recognises the test developed by Cambridge ESOL, but also demonstrates English UK's commitment to ensuring that all of its members are aware of the benefits such a test can bring.

Tony Millns, Chief Executive of English UK, comments: "Businesses around the world recognise that to fill the skills gap with non-native English speaking employees, providing relevant and effective language training is key. Assessing an individual's language ability is critical to this, which is why collaborating with Cambridge ESOL is such a natural fit. The 400-plus language centres we represent in the UK allow organisations to gain the support they need to bring their staff up to the standard required for business performance and overall communication."

Currently available in English, French, German and Spanish, the BULATS test provides a fast, reliable and economical way of assessing language ability and can be delivered on-line or on paper – all of which can help applicants find a job, aid promotion prospects for existing employees or gain international placement. BULATS has recently been accepted by the UK Border Agency as proof of English language ability under Tier 1 and 2 of the Points Based System (PBS) for immigration as well as showing progression.

Michael Milanovic, CEO at Cambridge ESOL explains: "It's vital for organisations to ensure that they can effectively assess an individual's language ability. It is for this very

reason that alongside English UK, we will offer a free BULATS Benchmarking Toolkit to help them set language standards. We are committed to providing fit for purpose exams for our customers and we look forward to working closely with English UK and its members.”

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors:**

**About Cambridge ESOL**

University of Cambridge ESOL examinations is the world’s leading language assessment provider. It provides [exams in English language](#) for over 3 million people every year, in more than 130 countries as well as a range of [qualifications for language teachers](#). Around the world, thousands of universities, employers and government ministries rely on Cambridge ESOL certificates as proof of English language ability. A Cambridge ESOL certificate can determine whether the career is progressed or a university place offered, while the broader examination results can help to determine a nation’s education and investment policy.

It is a not-for-profit department of the [University of Cambridge](#) and is part of the [Cambridge Assessment group](#), Europe’s largest assessment agency, which provides exams and tests covering a huge range of subjects and levels; more than eight million are taken every year. University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations is a founding member of [the Association of Language Testers in Europe \(ALTE\)](#) and works closely with testing organisations, schools and academics throughout the world to support the development of language testing in theory and practice.

Contact the press office: <http://www.cambridgeesol.org/what-we-do/newsroom/press-room.html>

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