

# RATER

Radboud Academic Test of English

[rater.bua.ambrac.nl](https://rater.bua.ambrac.nl)



Radboud Academic Test of English

---

## ***RATER: the new Radboud Academic Test of English***

Radboud University introduces the RATER. RATER is able to determine whether prospective Bachelor's students, Master's students or PhD candidates have the English proficiency level required to take an English-taught degree programme in an international higher education and research environment.

### **Why use RATER?**

- general academic English;
- B2 level or upper intermediate;
- pretested tasks and items, regularly updated to prevent fraud;
- high predictive value for study success;
- trained assessors at Radboud University Language centre;
- fast and reliable results;
- 5 examinations per year at both Radboud University and Wageningen University;
- Flexible examination options at other institutions;
- Blended digital and paper-based test, completely digital by 2018;
- well-priced with at € 175,00.

Try it yourself at:

**[rater.bua.ambrac.nl](http://rater.bua.ambrac.nl)**

### **Level of the test**

The RATER test is based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) B2 level (independent user). After taking the test, one of the following qualifications is awarded:

- Candidate has not yet mastered English at B2 level;
- Candidate performs successfully at the B2 level (comparable to IELTS 6.0-6.5, Cambridge FCE / CAE(C) and TOEFL iBT 80-100);
- Candidate has receptively mastered English at the C level of the CEFR.

Following the test, the candidate will receive a certificate stating the results with a short explanation.

## Reliable test

RATeR was developed by Radboud in'to Languages, the centre of excellence for language and communication at Radboud University Nijmegen, and the Faculty of Arts of Radboud University Nijmegen. This test has been pretested extensively in various user groups at various institutions, and has been calibrated to the standard of other well-known international tests. RATeR has proven to be a highly reliable and useful test with a high predictive value.

The RATeR is currently accepted for admission into:

- Bachelor programmes at Radboud University
- Master programmes at Wageningen University
- PhD programmes at Wageningen University

## Becoming a test centre

RATeR is currently up and running as a high stakes test as well as a diagnostic test at both Radboud University and Wageningen University. Any institute can apply to become a test centre. You will then receive the means to run RATeR examinations at your own institute. The locations for running examinations are flexible. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the secretarial office of Radboud in'to Languages:

 +31 24 361 21 59

 [info@into.ru.nl](mailto:info@into.ru.nl)

## Test components

### Reading skills and academic vocabulary (max. 90 minutes)

This component consists of approximately 40 multiple choice questions about authentic academic or popular science texts, divided across 3 sections:

- Reading comprehension questions about short academic and popular science articles dealing with contemporary issues, in which the writers present arguments for certain positions;
- Reading comprehension questions about longer popular science articles;
- A short academic or popular science text with blanks which you must fill in by selecting content words from a multiple choice list.

### Listening comprehension (about. 50 minutes)

This component consists of approximately 35 questions about scripted and non-scripted texts divided across 3 sections:

- Multiple choice questions about short spoken fragments dealing with contemporary issues in an academic setting;
- Multiple choice questions about longer spoken fragments such as interviews about academic topics;
- Complete the summary / gap fill questions about a short spoken academic or popular science text.

## Writing skills (max. 80 minutes)

This test component consists of 5 writing assignments. The writing assignments reflect the daily practice of students and PhD candidates. Some examples of writing assignments include:

- Writing a brief report based on data provided;
- Providing a motivated opinion on a particular topic;
- Writing a formal or informal e-mail.

After completion of this test component, the writing assignments are assessed by trained evaluators on the basis of a detailed assessment model that awards points for content, structure, consistency, grammar, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

## Speaking skills (approx. 20 minutes)

This test contains 10 oral assignments. The oral assignments reflect the daily practice of students and PhD candidates. Some examples of oral assignments include:

- Describing and explaining a table or graph;
- Discussing study performance with a student counsellor;
- Presenting a motivated opinion.

The responses of the candidates will be recorded by a headset with a microphone. This has the advantage that more than one candidate can take the test at the same time. Candidates listen to the assignments and see the questions and supporting visual materials. Each assignment is followed by a beep, after which the candidates provide their response. At the end of the test, the answers are saved on a secure hard disk. Trained evaluators assess the answers on the basis of a detailed assessment model that awards points for content, grammar, vocabulary, consistency and pronunciation.

## Why RATeR?

- Fast and reliable results;
- All test components are based on descriptors of the Common European Framework of Reference B2 level.
- This is the language level that is generally required by institutions of higher education;
- Tasks aimed at the academic community;
- Tests only contain tasks and items that have been pretested and are regularly updated to prevent fraud;
- Productive skills are assessed by a team of trained assessors based on clear language assessment criteria;
- Institutions for higher education are free to include RATeR in their list of (language) requirements;
- With € 175,00 RATeR is well priced in comparison with similar tests.



Radboud Academic Test of English

---

## More information

Would you like to know more about RATER or start using this test? Please contact the secretarial office of Radboud in'to Languages:

 +31 24 361 21 59

 info@into.ru.nl

Try it yourself at:

**[rater.bua.ambrac.nl](http://rater.bua.ambrac.nl)**

Radboud  
**in'to**  
Languages



Radboud  
University  
Nijmegen

 **Boom** uitgevers  
1841  
2016  
**175** jaar