iTEP Academic-Plus – IELTS^{TM} Comparison Chart

The IELTS test is a trusted English testing option around the world, and its function and purpose closely match that of the iTEP Academic Plus test. The iTEP Academic test does hold several advantages, however. iTEP is more affordable; IELTS is nearly double the price for students. IELTS is a paper based test, and as such adds an element of vulnerability to test security. Furthermore, with regard to flexibility of scheduling, iTEP provides maximum flexibility to test-takers who may be late applying for admission; tests can be scheduled on-demand, and results are returned within 5 business days.

	iTEP Academic-Plus	IELTS^{TM}
Total Exam Time	▪ 90 minutes (all five sections)	▪ 174 minutes (all four sections)
Skills Assessed	▪ Five sections/five skills, directly evaluated: grammar, listening, reading, writing, and speaking	▪ Four sections/four skills evaluated: reading, listening, writing, and speaking (face-to-face interview; conducted on different day)
Target Age	▪ University level students	▪ University level students
Purpose	▪ Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes ▪ Place students in English language programs ▪ Perform pre- and post-course assessment ▪ Qualify candidates for scholarships and exchange program acceptance ▪ Evaluate language proficiency for placement	▪ Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes ▪ Place students in English language programs ▪ Perform pre- and post-course assessment ▪ Qualify candidates for scholarships and exchange program acceptance ▪ Evaluate language proficiency for placement
Price	▪ $99 (global retail price for applicants); significant institutional discounts	▪ $185 (variance by country/location)
Delivery Format	▪ Internet	▪ Paper, plus face-to-face interview
Security	Full security measures in place: ▪ Tests can only be administered at secured Certified iTEP Test Centers ▪ Certified proctors on-site; ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker ▪ Item bank feature ensures that no test is replicated, and that test items are secure by streaming the content live during the exam	Full security measures in place: ▪ Tests can only be administered at secured IELTS Certified Test Centers ▪ Certified administrators on-site; ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker
Grading	▪ Multiple-choice sections (grammar, listening, reading) evaluated by iTEP software ▪ Writing and speaking sections evaluated by iTEP graders - native English speaking ESL-trained professionals	▪ Scored by IELTS. Test Centers provide scores to test-takers
Scoring	▪ Overall score ranges from 0 to 6, with .1 level increments, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric	▪ Overall score ranges from 1 to 9, as well as indivisual section scores, based on standardized rubric
Scheduling	▪ On-demand scheduling within 3 days of contacting a Certified iTEP Test Center	▪ Approx. 48 fixed test dates per year; test must be scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance
Results Delivery	▪ Results returned within 5 business days	▪ Results usually returned 13 days after test
Additional iTEP Benefits	▪ iTEP partners can get immediate online access to results of the grammar, listening, and reading sections, as well as access to the writing and speaking submissions ▪ iTEP available in customized and modularized versions ▪ iTEP partners can utilize their premises to become iTEP test centers and administer the exam on-site	