



UFES UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO ESPÍRITO SANTO



Case Summary

In 2020, the Federal University of Espirito Santo (UFES) partnered with iTEP to address a critical gap in English proficiency testing across Brazil. Following federal government programs that expanded university campuses into Brazil's interior regions, demand for English proficiency exams grew significantly, particularly for graduate students. However, Brazil's continental size created major barriers: students were often required to travel hundreds of kilometers to reach authorized testing centers, creating financial and travel burdens that especially affected those outside major cities.

The UFES-iTEP partnership introduced a simple solution: the iTEP Reading test, offered with "anytime, anywhere" flexibility through a secure at-home testing model. This collaboration used UFES's expertise through its Foreign Languages Center to create an effective nationwide hub for English proficiency testing.

Now in 2026, after six years of successful collaboration, the partnership has achieved remarkable results. Test participation from students outside Espirito Santo has increased steadily, directly addressing geographic and economic barriers. The model's success has drawn attention from other federal universities seeking to copy UFES's approach.

By combining iTEP's strong security features; including AI monitoring through Rosalyn and identity verification with UFES's academic reputation,

iTEP[®]

CASE STUDY

About iTEP

The International Test of English Proficiency (iTEP) was founded in 2002 to modernize English testing with flexible scheduling, fast grading, and accurate results. iTEP offers convenient, affordable testing in secure centers or remotely from home.

iTEP provides academic testing for high schools and universities for admissions and English programs. iTEP also offers career testing that companies worldwide use to assess English skills for hiring and promotions.

For more information see www.itepexam.com.

the partnership has strengthened both organizations' standing within Brazil's Ministry of Education while supporting the nation's goal of increasing English proficiency across its higher education system.

- ✓ Expanded nationwide access to English proficiency testing within the federal university system
- ✓ Ensured responsiveness to institutional demands without creating bottlenecks or delays



The combination of cost-effectiveness, administrative scalability, and consistency of academic standards makes **iTEP Reading** an efficient solution for institutions seeking to modernize language assessment without compromising rigor or institutional credibility.

Challenges

When Brazil's federal government opened more universities in rural areas, student numbers increased. This led to higher demand for English proficiency tests.

Brazil's huge size made things harder: many students had to travel hundreds of kilometers to reach official testing centers. This limited access and increased costs, especially for students outside big cities. Graduate students who needed to prove their English reading skills year-round, for admissions, thesis approval, or scholarships, faced major delays and disadvantages.

These challenges created a clear problem: federal universities needed better English testing options that could reach more students without compromising quality or credibility.



Results

Using the expertise of the Federal University of Espirito Santo (UFES) and iTEP's testing technology, this partnership has created a nationwide hub for English proficiency. By replacing rigid, in-person exam schedules with a remote, high-security testing format, the program has streamlined graduate admissions and accelerated scholarship distribution. This transition modernized language assessment across the federal university system, ensuring that academic standards remained high while administrative burdens were significantly reduced.

Since its launch in 2020, the initiative has successfully eliminated geographic barriers that previously disadvantaged students in remote or inland regions. By 2026, the shift to at-home testing has not only lowered costs for students but also fostered a more equitable academic environment. This success caught the attention of the National Association of Directors of Federal Institutions of Higher Education (AN-DIFES), where the model was recognized as a blueprint for institutional efficiency and student accessibility.

The UFES-iTEP collaboration now serves as a proven framework for other federal institutions looking to enhance their international programs. While the initial setup requires navigating specific administrative and financial protocols for foreign currency, the system is designed for easy replication. Ultimately, this partnership supports Brazil's national goal of increasing global competitiveness by providing reliable, affordable, and accessible language data that is essential for modern higher education.

The Solution

iTEP worked closely with UFES to create a complete solution addressing technical and administrative challenges. UFES's Foreign Languages Center experience provided the foundation, which combined with iTEP's technology enabled UFES to become an effective hub for expanding nationwide access to English proficiency testing.

Remote Testing: The at-home model eliminated travel to testing centers, addressing geographic and economic barriers while promoting equal access nationwide.

Strong Security: iTEP's identity verification confirms the registered student is taking the exam. The AI monitoring system, Rosalyn, records audio and video throughout, validating exam integrity and academic credibility.

Administrative Support: iTEP helped UFES navigate the legal steps for enabling foreign currency payments within a federal public institution, crucial for other universities to adopt the model.

Open Access Policy: Students from across Brazil can take the iTEP test through UFES even when not applying to UFES programs, enhancing institutional visibility and establishing UFES as a national leader in language education.

Streamlined Graduate Admissions: The iTEP Reading test allows continuous year-round assessment of English proficiency, eliminating delays in student enrollment, thesis approval, and scholarship distribution.

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