

ECT Degree / UPP Questions & Answers (March 2015)

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1. What is the ECT Degree Test?

The ECT Degree (End-of-Course Test for Degree Entry) is a test into a VU degree program of study. It is a four-part test designed to evaluate your level of language proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

The ECT Degree determines whether students have the English language capabilities to successfully complete undergraduate studies. Passing the ECT Degree allows you to enroll in your 3rd year of studies. Failing the ECT Degree will either terminate or slow progress toward your degree.

[See question 7: What happens if I fail the ECT Degree?](#)

2. What level do I need to pass the ECT Degree Test?

You must achieve an Upper-Intermediate English language level. The comparable IELTS level is a 6.0 overall or higher in all sub-skill areas (reading, writing, listening, and speaking).

3. When is the ECT Degree Test?

Liaoning University (AABC) from 20 June to 03 July 2015

- 21 June: Reading, listening and writing tests
- 23 June to 03 July: Speaking tests

4. Who will assess the students?

Victoria University English will have a test supervisor and a team of examiners at Liaoning University during the testing period.

5. Can I be exempt from the ECT Degree Test?

All students who achieve an IELTS score of 6.0 or higher in all 4 subtests (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) can apply for exemption from the ECT Degree test.

To apply for an exemption:

1. Bring your original IELTS certificate to your student advisor for scanning by 30 May 2015.
2. The VUE ECT supervisor will validate the IELTS Certificate with the British Council.
3. Bring your original IELTS certificate and a photocopy to the VUE Course Coordinator in office 222 by Friday 05 June 2015.

6. What should I do if...

- **I have an IELTS 6.0 overall or equivalent but not in every subskill (for example, my listening and writing are 5.5)**

Consider the Supplementary Program (SUPP) Undergraduate Preparation

[Please see the section 'What is the SUPP Course?'](#)

- **I have an IELTS 6.5 overall but one subskill is 5.0 (for example, my writing is 5.0)**

You must do the ECT Degree Entry in June at Liaoning University.

7. What happens if I *fail* the ECT Degree Test?

The ECT results generate a profile based on a formula that determines if a student is ready for degree level coursework

Category 1

These students are qualified to enter degree studies based on their ECT Degree test results (or if they are exempt with an IELTS 6.0 overall and no band less than 6.0).

ELICOS course work will not be considered for category 1 students.

Category 2

These students are *very close* to the required level but may be slightly below in **one** subskill area. The ELICOS course work and attendance will be taken into consideration for this category.

Category 3

These students are below on several or all subskill areas and do not qualify for entry and cannot proceed.

You should reflect on your English language skills now and if you are not confident to be in category 1 you should consider the Supplementary Program - Undergraduate Preparation.

[Please see the section 'What is the SUPP Course?'](#)

8. Will failing the ECT Degree influence my Australian visa application?

For help with your Australian visa application, please contact [China Education International](#) CEI can help you redefine your pathway as you will need to augment your language before continuing.

9. Can I take the ECT Degree Test later if I am sick?

Sorry, unlike other testing systems, VU English organizes one ECT Degree test per year. This test is part of your tuition and no extra expense to you. If you are sick or cannot attend, you will need to prove your language level with an IELTS or equivalent score.

10. How many students can pass the ECT Degree?

Students are either at the language level or they are not. Every year there are between 4% and 10% percent of students who do not qualify for degree entry. If you have any doubts that you will be among these students, you REALLY should consider the Supplementary Program (SUPP) - Undergraduate Preparation.

The Supplementary Program (SUPP) - Undergraduate Preparation

What is the SUPP course?

The Undergraduate Preparatory Program is a course provided by the private training centre [China Education International](#) and is approved and recognized by Victoria University. It is for students on the cusp of an overall IELTS 6.0 but with one or two subskill areas at a 5.5.

The SUPP is designed to raise students' English language ability in an intensive preparatory program. The course begins with a local teacher covering testing strategies and ends with a VU English teacher and examiner who completes the course and tests the participants. The final exam at the end of the SUPP is similar structure and difficulty as the ECT Degree. SUPP students will complete both exams, (the SUPP and the ECT Degree) and the better score will be registered.

Who should consider the SUPP course?

The SUPP course is for students who recognize they have limitations with English. There is no opportunity after the ECT Degree test results are released to enroll in the SUPP as it is done prior to the ECT Degree at Liaoning University.

You should consider speaking to a SUPP representative at [China Education International](#) if:

- You have taken an IELTS test within the last 12 months and have an overall 6.0 but not in every subskill.
- You have been identified as 'at risk' more than once in the ELICOS foundation program.
- You scored below 60% on your ELICOS course in semesters 1 to 3, including Business English semester.
- You are not confident that you will be in [Category 1](#) on the ECT Degree results.

What is the SUPP course English Language Test?

The SUPP English Language Test is a four-part test that is a similar structure as the ECT Degree.

What happens if a student passes the SUPP?

Students who pass the UPP will be allowed to enroll in degree studies at Victoria University. The better of their test scores (between ECT Degree and the SUPP final test) will be taken into consideration.

What if a student fails the SUPP?

Students ECT Degree results will also be reviewed alongside the SUPP test results.

What happens if I do not enroll in the SUPP and I fail the ECT

Degree entry?

There is no SUPP class available after the ECT Degree at Liaoning University. Your best option would be to travel to VU English Onshore and enroll in the SUPP course in Melbourne.

Please see: <http://www.vu.edu.au/vu-english>

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