

NEWS RELEASE

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CAMBRIDGE ESOL SUPPORTS UK BORDER AGENCY'S TIER 2 SYSTEM

Cambridge, 27 November 2008: Under the new Tier 2 of the points-based system (PBS) for immigration that comes into effect on 27th November 2008, migrants who are to undertake skilled work will, in most cases be expected to provide evidence which demonstrates that they have an acceptable standard of English.

The UK Border Agency is responsible for the control of borders and migration and Tier 2 of the PBS enables UK employers to recruit skilled workers from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for particular jobs that cannot be filled by a British or EEA national.

The University of Cambridge ESOL examinations certificates have been accepted by the agency and can be used as proof of English language ability – **Michael Milanovic, CEO for Cambridge ESOL** is pleased with the latest developments in this field.

“Our examinations have recently been approved by the UK Border Agency for both Tier 1 and 2 of the PBS. Over the past few years we have developed a range of certificates and exams to establish a strong base of competence in English for speakers of other languages. For migrants coming to work in this country, the ability to speak English to a competent level improves their chances to succeed and integrate into society. Being able to converse in English means they will have a headstart in their new roles and that can only be good for the UK economy.”

Among the many Cambridge ESOL tests which migrants can take are ESOL for Work, Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), Business English Certificate (BEC) Vantage, International Certificate in Financial English (ICFE) and a variety of ESOL Skills for Life examinations. The list also includes IELTS – the International English Language Testing System which Cambridge ESOL jointly own.

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