

English Language Training for External Scholarship Students
Call for Expression of Interest

Introduction:

The Ministry of Higher Education MoHE has an annual program for external scholarship in which around 1600 students holding General Diploma certificate with high achievement are selected to attend undergraduate programs delivered in English at foreign universities. Most of these universities acquire an English level of 5.5 in IELTS or equivalent tests as part of entry requirements into foundation programs. An average of 1000 students would require training to improve their English proficiency and achieve the required level. Starting from the academic year 2018/2019, MoHE is planning to prepare these students for entry into foundation programs locally prior to their starting undergraduate studies abroad.

MoHE is therefore invites interested higher education institutions and language institutes (HEI/LIs) in the Sultanate of Oman to provide their proposals to offer an English Language programme in Oman for external scholarship students as described below.

Description

1. The students shall undergo an intensive programme of two-semester of 18 weeks each followed by a summer semester of 10 weeks that prepares them for study at a university in an English speaking country and includes IELTS or TOEFL test preparation.
2. The entry level of students will vary but they are at IELTS band 4, 4.5 or 5.0. However, all students are required to achieve an English language competency equivalent to or higher than IELTS 5.5 at the end of the programme. The students with entry level of 5.0 are expected to achieve the targeted level of 5.5 in one semester, whereas those with entry levels of 4.5 and 4.0 would require two and three semesters respectively.
3. The HEI/LI will administer and bear the cost of placement tests, the results of which are used to divide students into homogeneous groups for training purpose.
4. The HEI/LI will facilitate the IELTS/TOEFL test in IELTS/TOEFL approved examination centers at the end of the program and bear the cost of administering it to all students.
5. The training programme is mainly a face-to-face mode and focused on English language proficiency improvement with some attention to the main study skills.
6. Course instructors should be highly qualified and fulfil the following criteria:
 - a) Master degree in Education (English) with not less than two years of experience or Master degree in English literature, linguistics with not less than three years of teaching experience, or:
 - b) Bachelor degree in Education (English) with no less than three years of teaching experience or Bachelor degree in English literature or linguistics with not less than four years of teaching experience.
 - c) Obtain a minimum of (7) in Academic IELTS or its equivalent in TOEFL.
 - d) Candidates who possess qualifications not related directly to teaching English, he/she shall have the certificate of teaching English for non-native speakers (DELTA, CELTA, TEFL) or its equivalent from an accredited and authorized centers, and his/her university language of study must be in English.
7. The training programs shall be delivered at language centers in Muscat, Suhar, Nizwa, Sur and Salalah.
8. The HEI/LI provide facilities and services needed in the educational institution that can help students in self-learning, like English Audiovisual Laboratories and other facilities necessary for the educational process. The center shall contain: classrooms with space not less than 50 square meter, Learning Resources Center and Student Restaurants and Self-learning Halls. The classrooms shall be equipped with recent visual and educational aids.
9. The HEI/LI shall provide –on request- proper housing facilities for students from distant areas of above 100 km from the language centers.

Required Information

The proposal should reach the ministry of Higher education by August 27th 2017 and should include the following information:

- The HEI/LI's experience in delivering similar programmes.
- The number of students that the HEI/LI can admit to this programme in September 2018, with a class size not to exceed 23 students.
- The cost per semester for a multipliable group of 100 students.
- Description of teaching venues and facilities (labs, learning resources, software, audio-visual.. etc).
- An outline of the training programme.
- All costs are to be detailed in an itemized form.