

What is a British Council IELTS Prize?

The British Council has developed this prize to help more people access international education experience and networks. This is for people planning to attend an undergraduate or postgraduate programme in or outside Vietnam. There are two levels of award. 5 successful applicants will each receive a prize to the value of VND70,000,000 (GBP2,000). 5 students with the top scores from the whole of the East Asia region* will each receive a prize to the value of VND420,000,000 (GBP12,000). Prize payments will be made to the attending higher educational institution in order to assist students with their tuition fees.

*East Asia region includes Burma, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Who is eligible for the Prize?

Essential eligibility criteria are that applicants must:

- Be a permanent resident of Vietnam
- begin undergraduate or postgraduate study in or outside Vietnam in 2015 (academic year),
- Attend a higher educational institution that accepts IELTS as part of its admission requirements
- Have a valid IELTS score obtained from the British Council on or after 1 June 2014
- Have a minimum band score of 6 in each of the four component parts of the test
- Be able to provide an acceptance letter from the attending institution by 30 June 2015

What is the final date for applications to be received by British Council?

A completed application form must be received by the British Council office in Vietnam by 6p.m. on **31 May 2015**.

What is the application process?

1. Take an IELTS test at a British Council authorised centre and receive your scores.
2. Download and complete the application form. Completed application forms must reach the British Council by 6 p.m. on 31 May 2015.
3. We will notify you by email on or before 15 June 2015 whether or not you have been shortlisted.
4. Shortlisted applicants will be required to attend a panel interview between 15 to 26 June 2015.
5. Shortlisted applicants must provide a letter of acceptance from the university you plan to attend on or before 30 June 2015. Failure to provide a letter of acceptance by the deadline will result in your immediate removal from the shortlist of applicants.
6. We will notify all shortlisted applicants of the final result by e-mail on or before 31 July 2015.

I have a disability. Can I still apply?

Yes, of course. We will short-list all applicants with a disability provided they meet the essential eligibility criteria. In line with the UK Disability Discrimination Act 1995, we define a person as having a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

What is the selection process?

Shortlisting will be carried out by a panel of British Council staff. The panel will use the personal statement on the application form for shortlisting purposes so applicants should carefully check the task completion criteria on the application form. All applicants with a disability will be automatically shortlisted provided that they meet essential eligibility criteria. The final winning students will be chosen by a panel of senior managers and external raters from the higher education and/or corporate sectors. The panel will decide on the local prize winners based on a presentation and interview.

The top student in each country will represent that country to compete for one of the 5 grand prizes in East Asia. A regional panel in East Asia will name the 5 grand prize winners based on their previous

video-taped interview performance. Students will only be awarded one prize. Grand prize winners will not get the local prize.

How will the prize be awarded and when?

The prize will be paid directly to the university you attend after the British Council has officially confirmed your status with that university.

What expenses will the prize cover?

The award can only be applied towards your tuition fees.

At which universities can the prize be used?

Students may use the prize at any university in any country outside or in Vietnam that recognises IELTS for the purposes of undergraduate or postgraduate admission requirements. You can search a worldwide list of recognising universities at www.takeielts.org. However, global IELTS recognition is growing all the time and if the university you plan to attend is not listed, we strongly recommend you contact the university directly for confirmation of their latest requirements.

Can I send an application if I have registered for an IELTS test and have not yet taken it or if I am currently waiting for my IELTS test results?

No, you can only apply once you have received your IELTS score and if your score meets the minimum eligibility requirement of 6

Can I apply if I am waiting for an acceptance letter from my university?

Yes. Only short-listed applicants need to provide an acceptance letter from the university they will attend by 31 July 2014. This university must use IELTS scores to satisfy their English language requirements for admission.

I took an IELTS test in 2013. Is my score still valid?

IELTS scores are valid for two years, and so you can use a British Council IELTS score to apply provided that the score is still valid at the time of your application.

I didn't take my IELTS test at the British Council or a British Council attached IELTS centre. Can I still apply?

No. As this is a British Council IELTS prize, an essential eligibility criterion is that you have taken your IELTS test with us.

Am I eligible for the IELTS Prize if I have obtained partial funding through another scholarship or loan scheme?

Yes, you are still eligible. However, it would be better to check with the other scholarship authority that they allow you to receive the IELTS Prize at the same time.

I already have a full tuition scholarship. Am I still eligible to apply?

No, you are not eligible. If you are awarded a full tuition scholarship for 2015 after you apply for the British Council IELTS Prize, please inform us and we will no longer consider your application.

Where do I send my completed application?

An original hard copy of your application should be sent to:

IELTS Prize

British Council

Loan Nguyen – Exams Unit

25 Le Duan Street, District 1, HCMC

Completed application forms must reach the British Council by **6 p.m. on 31 May 2015**.

How do I contact the British Council IELTS Prize team with more questions?

Please e-mail your enquiries to: binh.le@britishcouncil.org.vn