

# Student-Centered Language Assessment: Lowering Barriers and Increasing Opportunities

Ryan Munson, Lindsay Addington, and Marivi Walker



# Agenda

- Introductions
- Duolingo English Test (Overview)
- Duolingo English Test (Validity & Reliability)
- Graduate Data (Trends from 2021)
- Institutional Perspective: Florida Tech
- Use in Practice (Students & Institutions)
- Q&A





# Introductions



# Presenters



**Ryan Munson**  
United States Engagement  
ryan@duolingo.com



**Marivi Walker**  
Florida Tech  
mvwalker@fit.edu



**Lindsay Addington**  
United States Engagement  
lindsay@duolingo.com

## MISSION

A circular diagram composed of dashed lines with various icons representing language learning: a play button, a document with a checkmark, a speaker, a padlock, a paper airplane, and a hand pointing at a screen. The Duolingo logo is positioned at the top of this circle.

Use technology to lower barriers and increase opportunities for English language learners everywhere.

**duolingo** english test

# duolingo english test overview



**Accessible** - Test has been taken in 200+ countries and costs \$49 USD



**Comprehensive** - Includes scores, video interview, and writing sample



**Fast** - Certified results available in 2 days

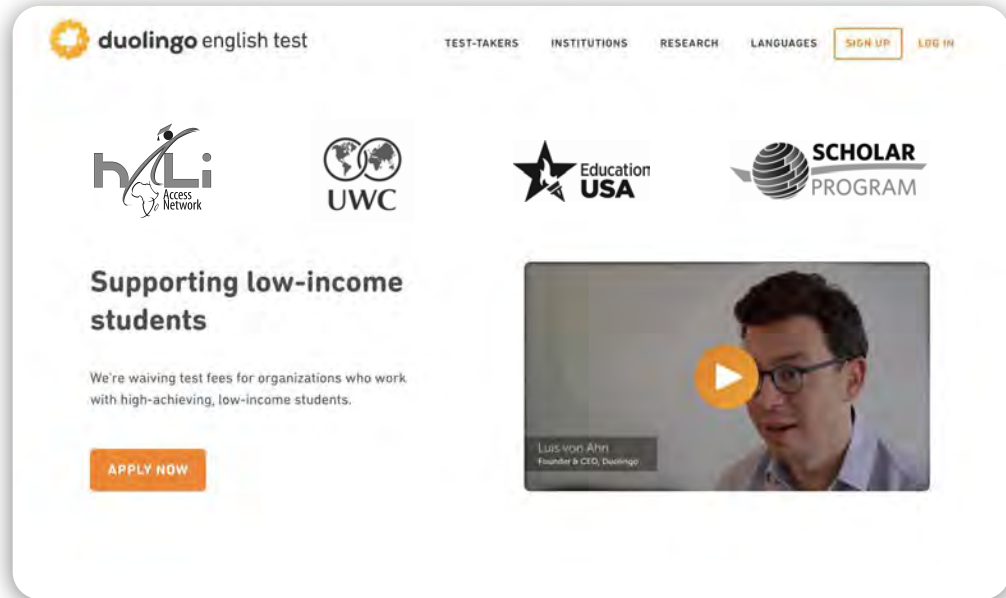


**Reliable** - Research supports use in high-stakes decisions



**Secure** - Remote proctoring, AI, browser lockdown, adaptive test, and more

# Access Program 2020-21



The screenshot shows the Duolingo English Test Access Program website. At the top, the Duolingo logo and 'english test' are on the left, and navigation links for TEST-TAKERS, INSTITUTIONS, RESEARCH, LANGUAGES, SIGN UP, and LOGIN are on the right. Below the navigation, there are four logos: hLi Access Network, UWC, Education USA, and the SCHOLAR PROGRAM logo. The main content area features the heading 'Supporting low-income students' and a subtext: 'We're waiving test fees for organizations who work with high-achieving, low-income students.' Below this is an 'APPLY NOW' button. To the right of the text is a video player showing a man speaking, with a play button overlay and a caption identifying him as Luis von Ahn, Founder & CEO, Duolingo.

70+ countries

150+ counselors / orgs

3,000+ direct use

10,000+ offered to  
universities

[englishtest.duolingo.com/access](https://englishtest.duolingo.com/access)

## NEW! Duolingo English Test partnership with UNHCR



### Access Program Counselor

On World Refugee Day, the Duolingo English Test announced our latest access initiative—hiring a dedicated university counselor to directly support UNHCR as they work with refugees seeking higher education. **And today, we're proud to begin the search for the individual who will lead in this role.**

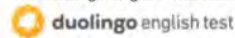
Together, we'll seek to reinforce UNHCR's 15by30 initiative, which aims to increase refugee enrollment in higher education to 15% by 2030. Currently, only 3% of all refugees ever enroll at a university. This initiative and this counselor's future work will be transformative in creating a framework for refugees' access to higher education—advising 25 refugee students from targeted regions of the world, guiding them through the university admissions and financial aid process.

**We're reaching out with hope that you or your team is connected with a passionate university counselor who may be interested in applying to lead this critical initiative.**

More information as well as the application can be found at [go.duolingo.com/AccessProgramCounselor](https://go.duolingo.com/AccessProgramCounselor).

We look forward to continuing to work with universities as we launch this partnership, and are ever grateful for your support.

The Duolingo English Test team



*Questions from you or your applicants about the Duolingo English Test? Reach out to your Duolingo contact or email [institutional@duolingo.com](mailto:institutional@duolingo.com)*



# International acceptance

3,000+ U.S. programs

200+ Canadian programs

150+ UK programs

50+ Irish programs

30+ Australian programs



# What we're seeing

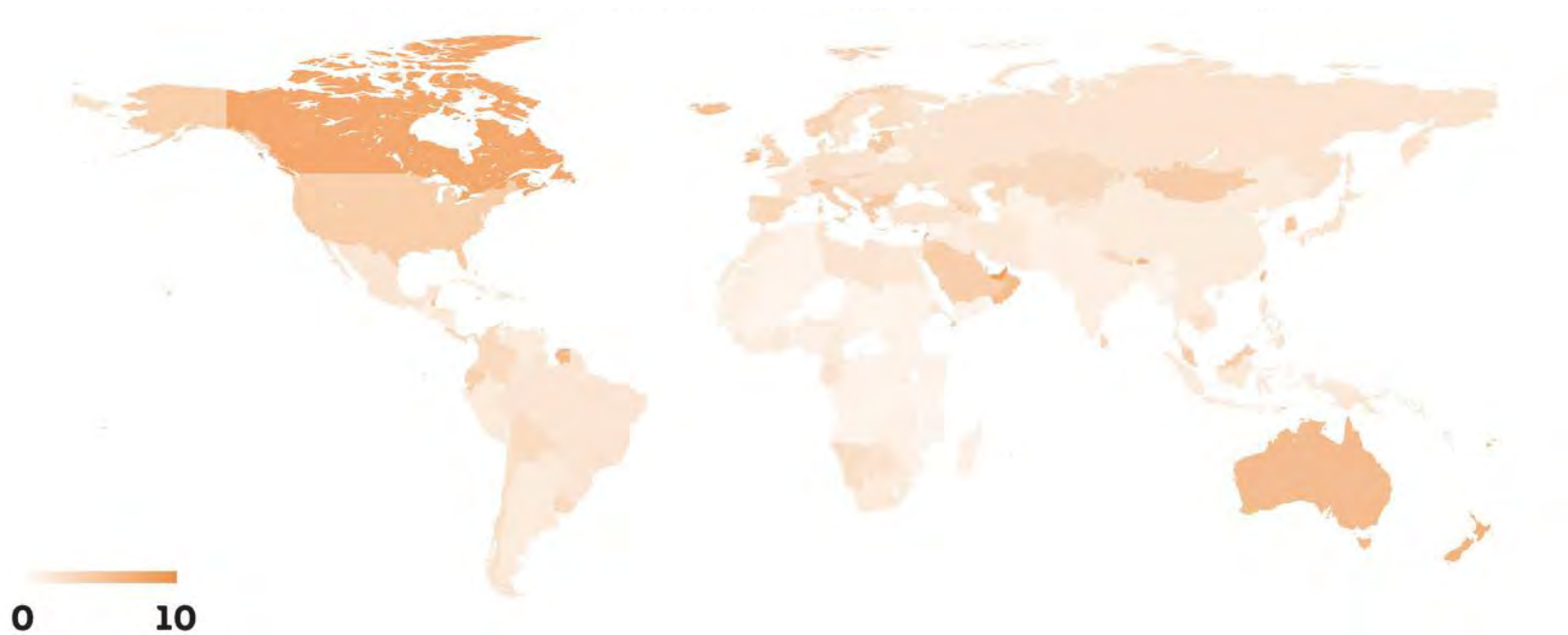
+2,000

New accepting institutions in 2020. Over **3,500** programs now accept the Duolingo English Test

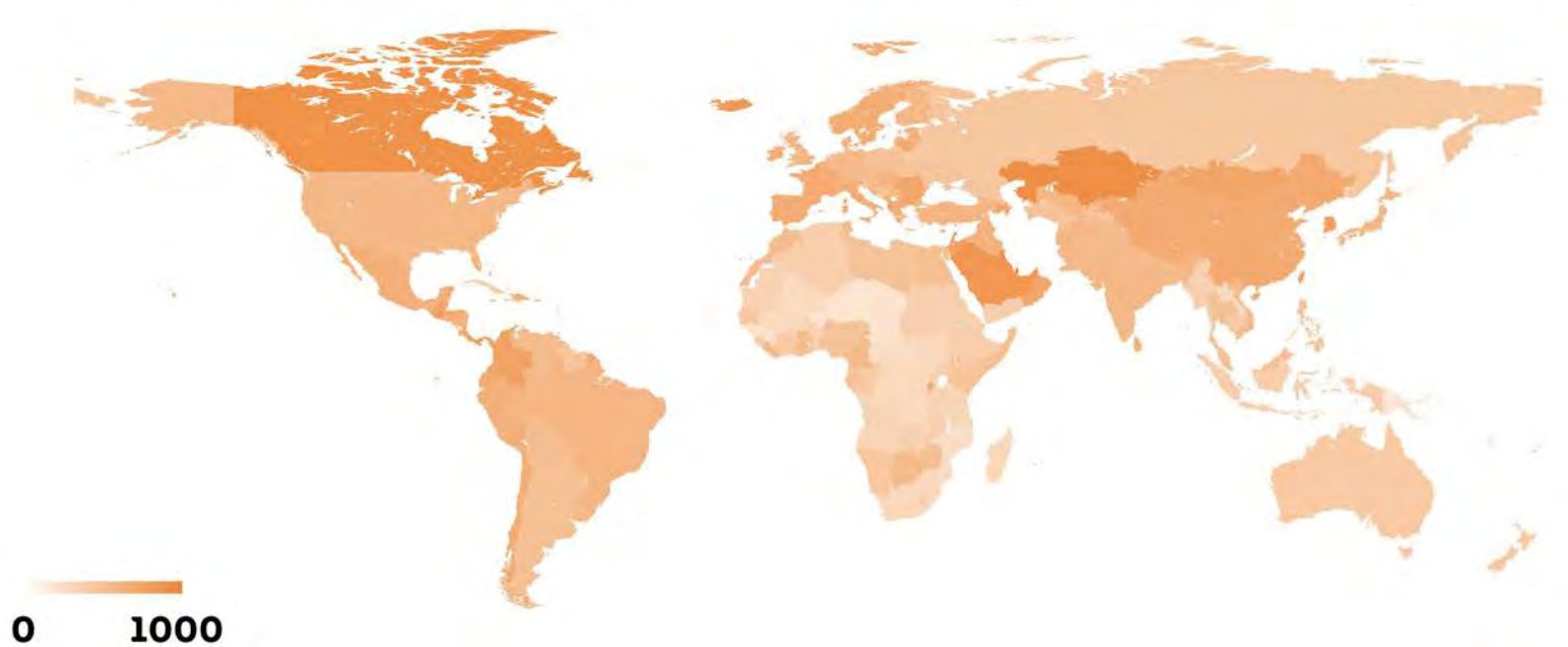
+2,000%

YTD increase in test volume. Large increases coming from China, Korea, Brazil, Mexico, India, Kazakhstan

# test centers per million people



# duolingo test takers per million people



# Validity & Reliability

# More researchers, more research



**Dr. Alina von Davier**  
Chief of Assessment

- PhD in Mathematics from Otto von Guericke University Magdeberg
- President of the International Association of Computer Adaptive Testing
- Board Director, Assoc. of Test Publishers



**Dr. Jill Burstein**  
Principal Assessment Scientist

- PdD in Linguistics, CUNY
- Previously developed automated writing evaluation technologies; conducted writing analytics/achievement research
- Specializes in natural language processing and computational linguistics



**Dr. Antony John Kunnan**  
Principal Assessment Scientist

- PhD in Applied Linguistics, UCLA
- Honorary Professor, Univ. of Hong Kong
- Author of Evaluating Language Assessments (Routledge, 2018), co-editor of Language Assessment Quarterly



**Dr. J.R. Lockwood**  
Principal Assessment Scientist

- PhD in Statistics, CMU
- Previously conducted research at RAND and ETS
- Specializes in statistics, psychometrics, latent variable modeling, and data analysis



### **Dr. Geoff LaFlair**

Senior Assessment Scientist

- PhD in Applied Linguistics, NAU
- Published in Language Testing, Applied Linguistics, The Modern Language Journal, and Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics



### **Dr. Yigal Attali**

Principal Assessment Scientist

- PhD in Cognitive Psychology, The Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem
- Extensive experience in development of innovative edu technology solutions, automated scoring, and automated item generation



### **Ramsey Cardwell**

Assessment Scientist

- PhD candidate in Educational Measurement, UNC Greensboro
- Previously interned at College Board and Medical Council of Canada
- Presented at AERA, NCME, AAAL, and AALA



### **Dr. Sarah Goodwin**

Assessment Scientist

- PhD in Applied Linguistics, Georgia State University
- Developed English and Spanish items for the University of Michigan and Michigan State University
- Specializes in item development, examinee response processes, corpus linguistics, listening, and writing



### **Dr. Yena Park**

Assessment Scientist

- PhD in Second Language Studies, Indiana University
- Research interests include listening, speaking, and integrated tasks in L2 assessment
- Extensive experience in test development

# technical advisory board



**Micheline  
Chalhoub-Deville**

- Professor, Educational Research Methodology, UNC at Greensboro
- President, International Language Testing Association
- Formerly, served on the TOEFL® Committee of Examiners, the TOEFL® Policy Board, and the British Council Assessment Board



**Eunice Eunhee Jang**

- Professor, Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development, University of Toronto
- Specializations in diagnostic language assessment and technology-rich learning and assessment.
- Current research includes AI-infused assessment systems supporting literacy development and international student success



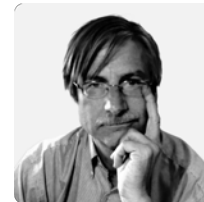
**Bryan Smith**

- Associate Professor, English, Arizona State University
- Researcher in computer-assisted language learning
- Editor of CALICO Journal, an international journal devoted to research and discussion on technology and language learning



**Stephen Sireci**

- Distinguished Professor, Psychometrics and Director of the Center for Educational Assessment, UMass Amherst
- Researcher in educational test development particularly issues of validity, standard setting
- Vice President of the National Council of Measurement in Education (NCME).



**Brian Junker**

- Professor of Statistics and Data Science, Carnegie Mellon University
- Extensive experience in applying modern statistics and statistical psychometrics to challenging problems in assessment
- Co-chair, Design and Analysis Committee, National Assessment of Educational Progress



# Construct Validity

| Scale           | CEFR          | Descriptors  |
|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 10<br> <br>55   | A1<br> <br>A2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can understand very basic English words and phrases.</li><li>• Can understand straightforward information and express themselves in familiar contexts.</li></ul>   |
| 60<br> <br>85   | B1            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can understand the main points of concrete speech or writing on routine matters such as work and school.</li><li>• Can describe experiences, ambitions, opinions, and plans, although with some awkwardness or hesitation.</li></ul>   |
| 90<br> <br>115  | B2            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can fulfill most communication goals, even on unfamiliar topics. Can understand the main ideas of both concrete and abstract writing.</li><li>• Can interact with proficient speakers fairly easily.</li></ul>   |
| 120<br> <br>160 | C1<br> <br>C2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can understand a variety of demanding written and spoken language including some specialized language use situations.</li><li>• Can grasp implicit, figurative, pragmatic, and idiomatic language.</li><li>• Can use language flexibly and effectively for most social, academic, and professional purposes.</li></ul> |

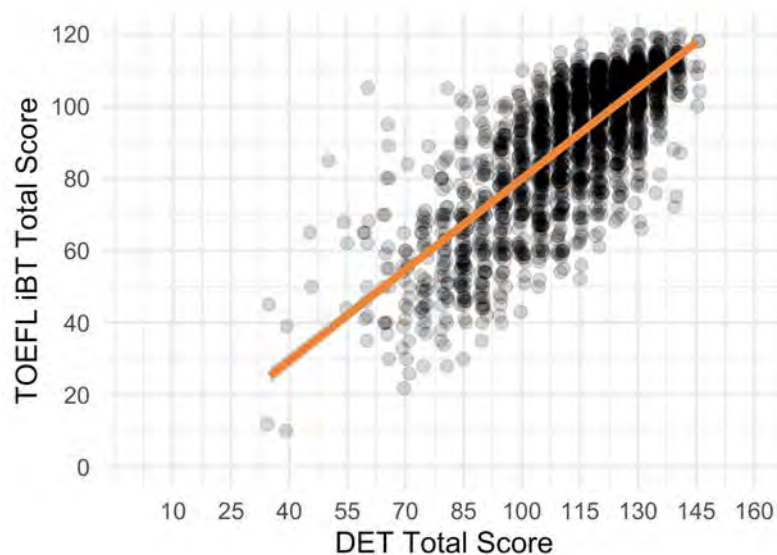
# Alignment to IELTS & TOEFL

## CORRELATION

| Relationship                     | r   | n     |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| * <i>TOEFL</i> ↔<br><i>IELTS</i> | .73 | 1,153 |
| DET ↔ IELTS                      | .78 | 991   |
| DET ↔ TOEFL                      | .77 | 2,139 |

\**ETS, 2010*

DET ↔ TOEFL



# Scale and concordance

Duolingo

|         |
|---------|
| 85-90   |
| 95-100  |
| 105-110 |
| 115-120 |
| 125-130 |
| 135-140 |
| 145-150 |
| 155-160 |

IELTS

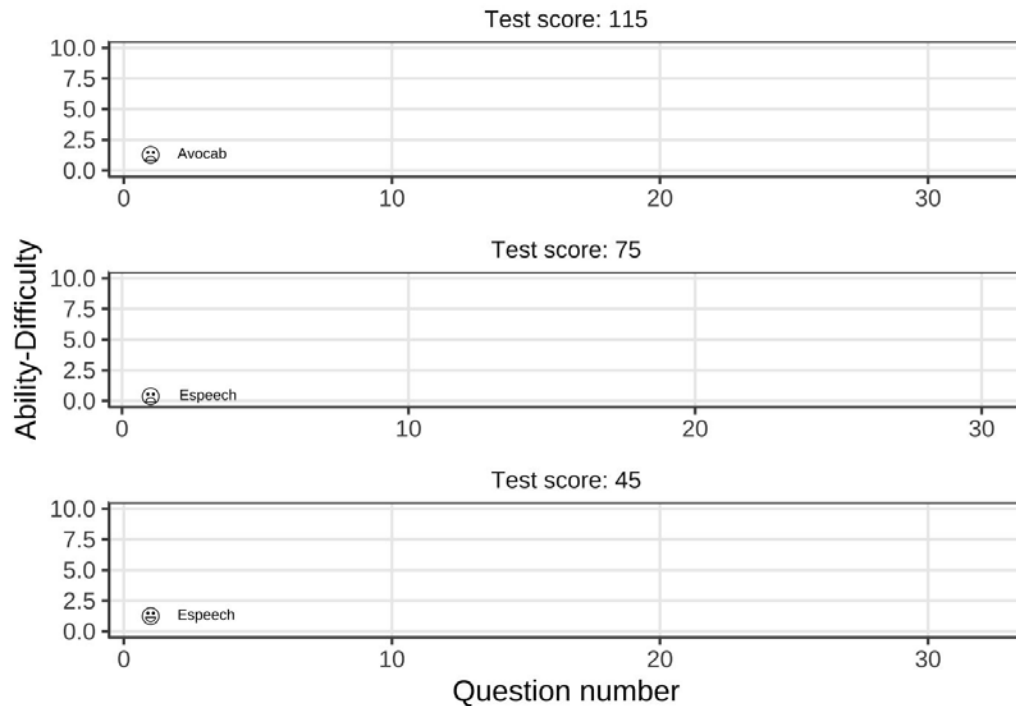
5.5  
6  
6.5  
7  
7.5  
8  
8.5  
9



TOEFL

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 150-160 | 120     |
| 145     | 119     |
| 140     | 116-118 |
| 135     | 113-115 |
| 130     | 108-112 |
| 125     | 103-107 |
| 120     | 97-102  |

# Computer Adaptive Testing



Note: item types are equally represented in the test, to represent all skills  
Each format is shown 3–7 times (6 on average)

# Reliability

- **Internal consistency:** how well the questions work together to measure the component of language
- **Test-retest:** two different test scores for the same people within 30 days

| Subscore      | Internal consistency | Test-retest reliability |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Literacy      | 0.89                 | 0.82                    |
| Conversation  | 0.93                 | 0.80                    |
| Comprehension | 0.95                 | 0.78                    |
| Production    | 0.76                 | 0.83                    |

Note: The closer the value of these are to 1.00 the better. Internal consistency was calculated using split-half reliability methods.

# Digital-first means unique security advantages

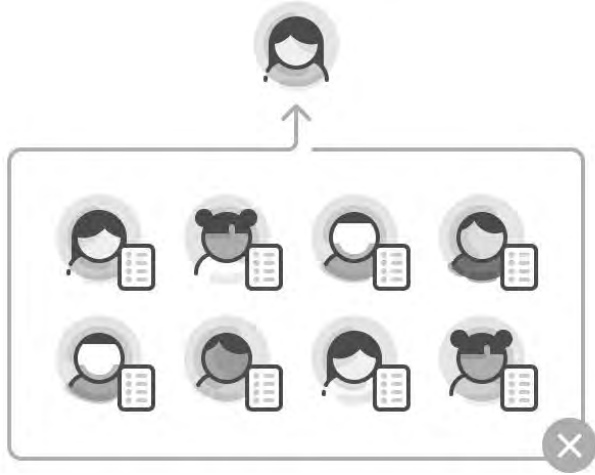
- Large item bank means we're not worried about item exposure
- No supply-chain risks (e.g. bribed printers)
- ML assistance and behaviour database grows with every test taker
- Adaptive digital delivery eliminates test theft problems
- We can easily collect test session and test taker video/audio recordings



VS

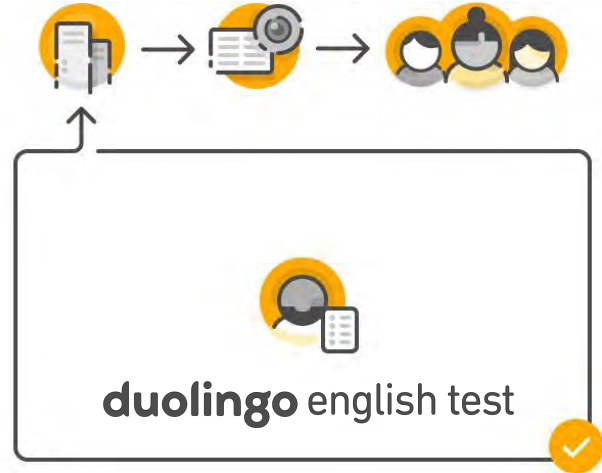


# Human proctoring



1:25

Varies depending on the test and center, but on average, 1 proctor is tasked with supervising ~25 test-takers



Multiple:1

Each test session is individually reviewed by multiple highly trained proctors after test completion

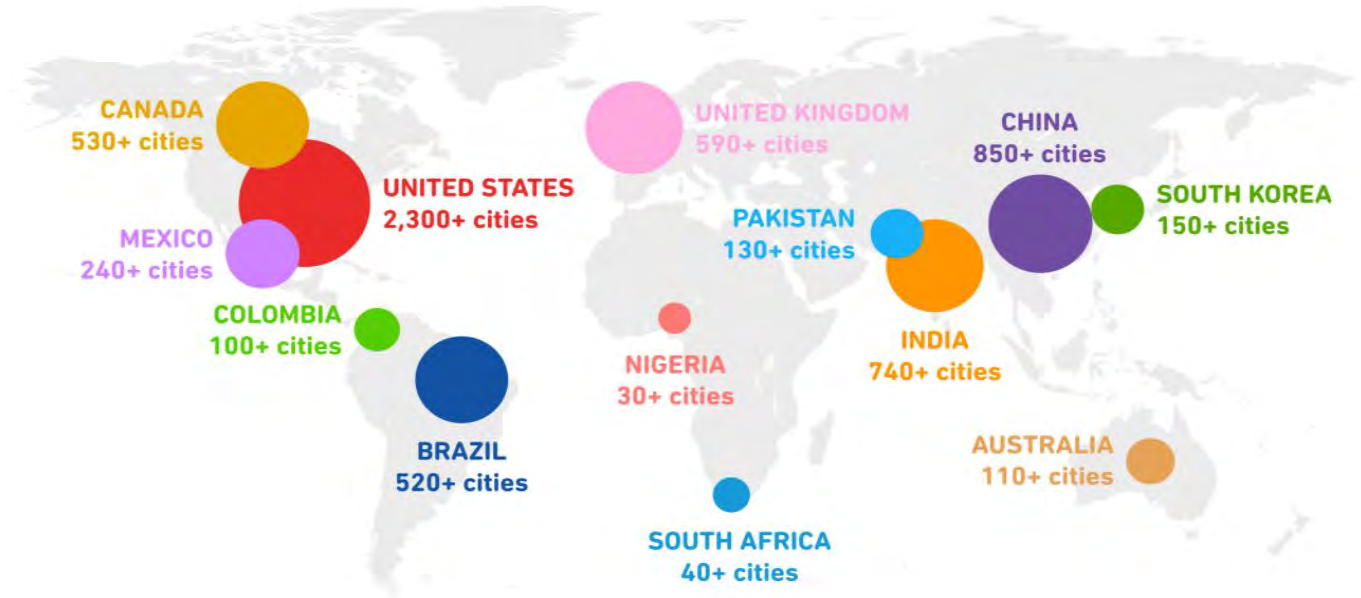
# 2021 Graduate Data



# test-taker data & insights

Snapshot: Number of Duolingo English Test taker cities in a range of countries and regions

12,000+  
Test Taker  
Cities

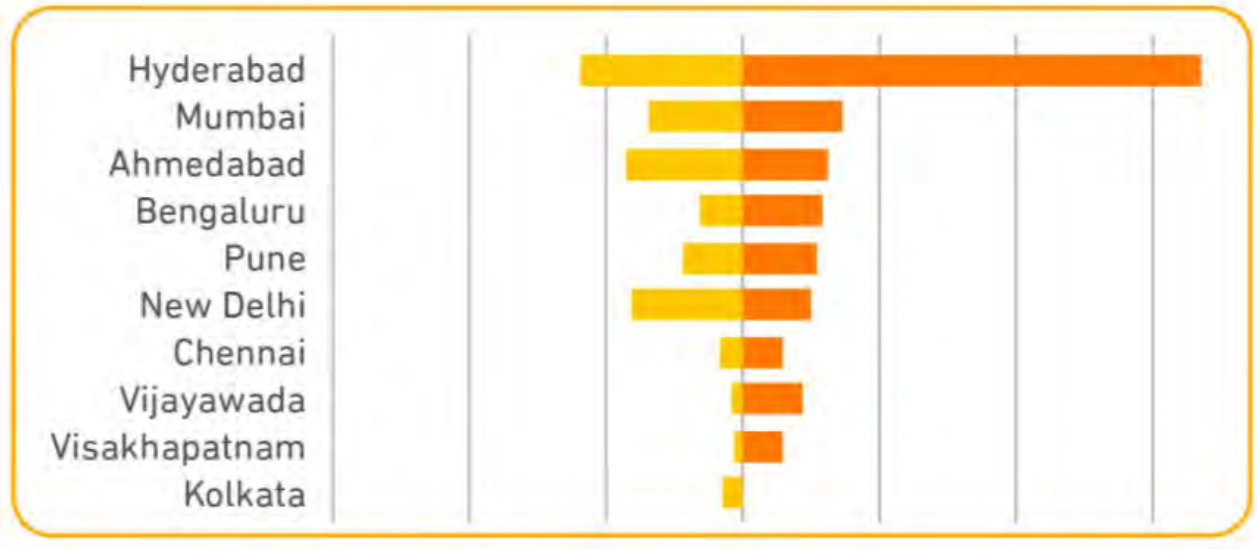


# India insights

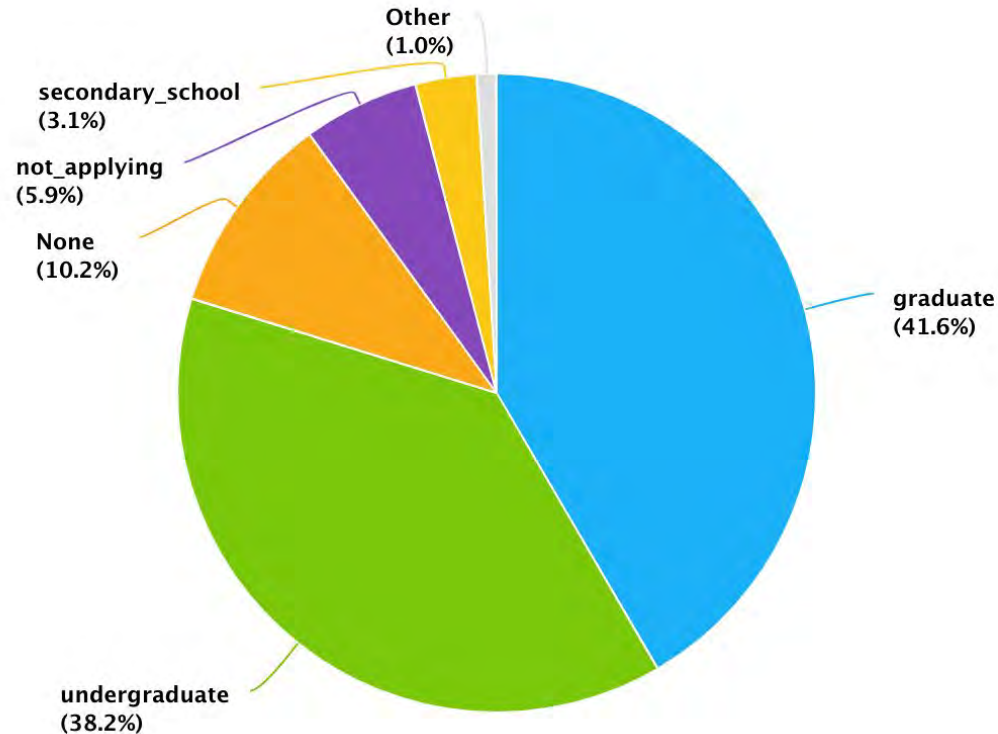


**India**  
740+ Cities

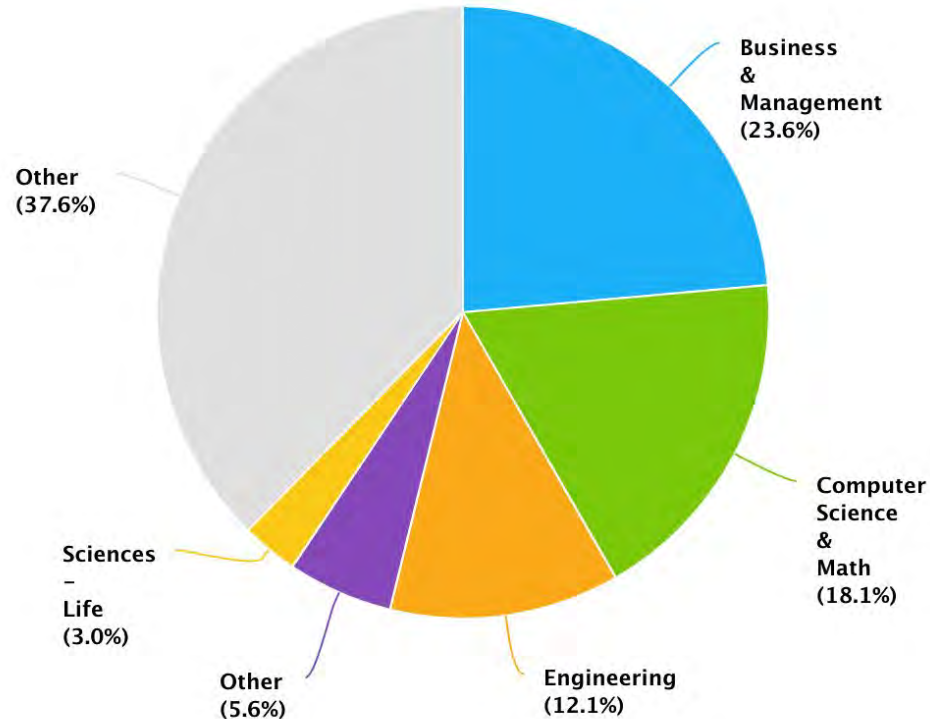
■ Undergraduate      ■ Graduate



# Test-taker intent: Academic Level September - October 2021



# Graduate test-taker intent: Field of Study September - October 2021



## COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

# Institutional test share reports - New in 2022

- End of admission cycle test-taker summary
- Top countries of test takers
- Overlapping institutions for score sends

## Test Taker Shares Report



### Number of Shares

With a mission to use technology to lower barriers to education and increase opportunities for English language learners everywhere, we are pleased to present the following data report showcasing your institutional test share data from July 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021. We hope this report provides helpful insights and sparks additional interest in how the Duolingo English Test can support you to best serve institutional students.

Additionally, we would like to underscore the meaningful outcomes from your test shares over the last admission cycle. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively on how Duolingo English Test shares relate to your institution's application, acceptance, yield, and initial student success metrics.

If you have questions or would like to explore other forms of data analytics for your institution, please reach out to your Duolingo English Test main point of contact.

Your institution has received a total of 2,318 Duolingo English Test shares during this time period.

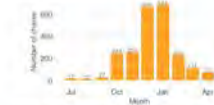


Figure 1. Monthly shares from July 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

### Test Taker Origins

The table below shows the top five countries from which test takers are sending scores to your institution.

| Rank | Country       | N Shares | Percent |
|------|---------------|----------|---------|
| 1    | China         | 750      | 32.4%   |
| 2    | India         | 256      | 10.2%   |
| 3    | United States | 200      | 8.6%    |
| 4    | South Korea   | 100      | 4.3%    |
| 5    | Brazil        | 90       | 3.9%    |

### Overlap Institutions

This table shows the most frequent five other institutions with which test takers have shared their scores.

Table 2. Top five overlap schools.

| Rank | Institution                               |
|------|---|
| 1    | Boston University Undergraduate Admission |
| 2    | New York University                       |
| 3    | University of California Irvine           |
| 4    | University of California San Diego        |
| 5    | University of California Los Angeles      |

### Distribution of Shared Scores

This figure shows the full range of total and subscores that your institution has received from test takers. The orange bars show the minimum, average, and maximum scores that test takers have shared with your institution. The grey bars show the same information for all Duolingo English Test test takers during this time period. More information about the subscores can be found at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duolingo\\_English\\_Test](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duolingo_English_Test).

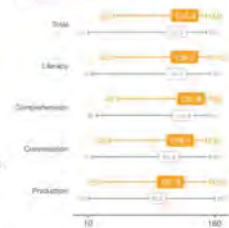


Figure 2. Minimum, average, and maximum scores shared with your institution by weight and for all Duolingo English Test administrations.

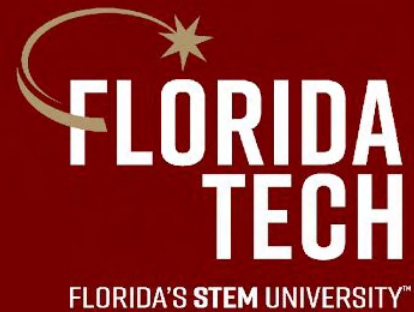
# Institutional Perspective: Florida Tech

# Institutional Overview



FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MELBOURNE FL  
....on Florida's Space Coast

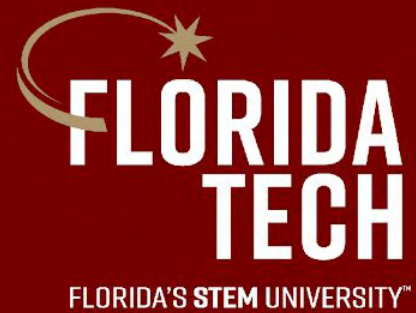
# Why the Duolingo English Test?



- Accessibility
- Low cost to student
- Ease for student
- Quick turnaround of results
- Fee waivers available
- High level security
- Excellent technical support and customer service



# Process to Accept?



Florida Tech began to accept DET in Spring 2019 after visiting the Pittsburgh office and subsequent approval by English & Languages Division, School of Arts & Communication.

First “test” group were members of our Crew team. They had been admitted but were competing in the European championships and could not schedule alternative testing . DET made it very easy for them to test over the summer while on the road for the Fall 2019 cycle.

# Using the Test & Score Criteria

Scores received via:

Slate integration

- Scores electronically uploaded, ELP automatically satisfied if DET score of 100 or 120 for GSA

DET dashboard allows verification and ensures secure certified results for institutions

# Application Trends

| Academic Year     | Test Scores Received (UG & Grad) |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2018-19           | 2                                |
| 2019-20           | 10                               |
| 2020-21           | 281                              |
| 2021-22 (to date) | 1556                             |
| 2022-23 (to date) | 34                               |

# Lessons Learned

- No difference in academic performance for those who provided DET vs. any other ELP score- did not affect retention
- Glad we pushed DET approval - signed on early - 100% ready to offer international students an easy solution in 2020 and our AY 2020-2021 enrollments did not suffer, quite the contrary (remote access + on-campus)
- You can never have too many methods of demonstrating ELP.

## Test Taker Shares Report for Florida Institute of Technology - Graduate



Duolingo English Test Score Share  
November 20, 2021 (17 pages)

### Number of Shares

With a mission to use technology to lower barriers to assessment and increase opportunities for English language learners everywhere, we are pleased to present the following data report showcasing your institutional test share data from January 1, 2021 to November 15, 2021. We hope this report provides helpful insights and sparks additional interest in how the Duolingo English Test can support you to best serve international students.

Additionally, we would like to understand the meaningful outcomes from your test shares over the last admission cycle. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively on how Duolingo English Test shares relate to your institution's application, acceptance, yield, and initial student success metrics.

If you have questions or would like to explore other forms of data analytics for your institution, please reach out to your Duolingo English Test main point of contact.

Your institution has received a total of 731 Duolingo English Test shares during this time period.



Figure 1. Monthly shares from January 1, 2021 to November 15, 2021

### Test Taker Origins

The table below shows the top five countries from which test takers are sending scores to your institution:

Table 1. Top five countries of test takers sharing scores

| Rank | Country       | N Shares | Percent |
|------|---------------|----------|---------|
| 1    | India         | 561      | 76.7%   |
| 2    | Iran          | 48       | 6.6%    |
| 3    | United States | 25       | 3.4%    |
| 4    | Saudi Arabia  | 11       | 1.5%    |
| 5    | Bangladesh    | 10       | 1.4%    |

### Overlap Institutions

This table shows the most frequent five other institutions with which test takers have shared their scores.

Table 2. Top five overlap entities

| Rank | Institution                                |
|------|--|
| 1    | University of New Haven Graduate Admission |
| 2    | University of North Texas                  |
| 3    | Cleveland State University                 |
| 4    | New Jersey Institute of Technology         |
| 5    | Arizona State University                   |

### Distribution of Shared Scores

This figure shows the full range of total and subscores that your institution has received from test takers. The orange bars show the minimum, average, and maximum scores that test takers have shared with your institution. The gray bars show the same information for all Duolingo English Test test takers during the July 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021 time period. More information about the subscores can be found at [englishtest.duolingo.com/subscores](https://englishtest.duolingo.com/subscores).

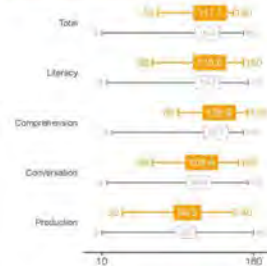
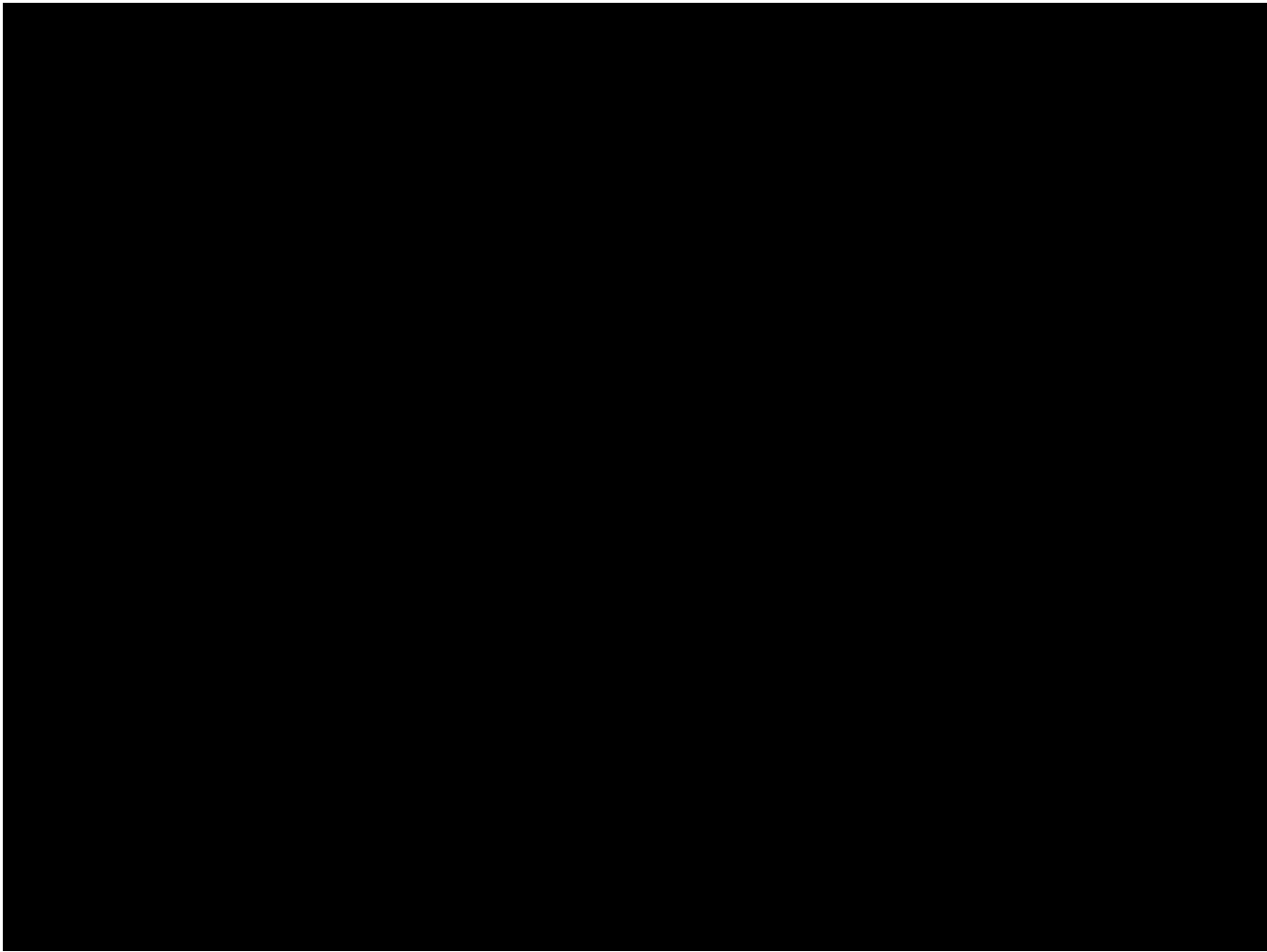


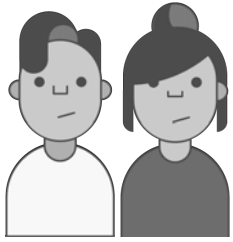
Figure 2. Minimum, average, and maximum scores shared with your institution (orange) and for all Duolingo English Test applicants (gray)

# Test Data Reports - Coming in 2022

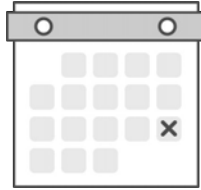
Use in Practice:  
Test Taker Journey



# Traditional Testing



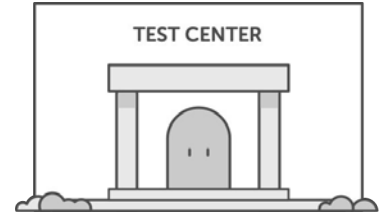
Students need to  
take an English  
test



Book a date



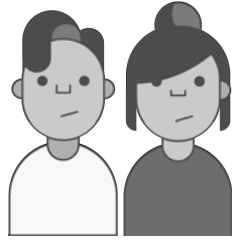
Travel to test center-  
sometimes to a  
different city or  
country



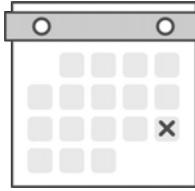
+3 hours to take  
a test



# Duolingo English Test



Students need to  
take an English  
test



Take the test  
any day you  
want, any  
time you  
want



Test anywhere you  
have internet access  
and a computer

Use in Practice:  
Institutional  
Experience

# Institutional resource center

englishtest.duolingo.com/dashboard

The screenshot displays the Duolingo English Test institutional resource center dashboard. At the top, the navigation bar includes the Duolingo logo, 'duolingo english test', and links for HOME PAGE, RESEARCH, BLOG, FAQ, LANGUAGES, and SIGN OUT. The main dashboard area is divided into several sections:

- Test Documentation:** A grid of links categorized under 'Scoring' (Subscores, Reliability of Test Scores, Test Score Interpretation and Fairness), 'Security' (Security Protocols and Accommodations, Security and Integrity Data Page), 'Under the Hood' (Technical Manual, Multiple Learning Content Language Assessment), and 'Research and Efficacy' (Psychometric Considerations, Design, Validity, and Value).
- Useful Links:** A grid of links for 'For Institutions' (Implementation Guide, Duolingo English Test Blog, Research Readiness Webinar, Security Readiness Webinar, API Reference Guide) and 'For Test-Takers' (Test Readiness Guide, New Practice Test, Frequently Asked Questions).
- Updates:** A section featuring two articles. The first, 'International education trends via the world's most accessible English test', includes a line graph showing trends from 2015 to 2020. The second, 'Duolingo English Test', includes a brief description of the test.
- Upcoming Events:** A list of events including 'Understanding Subscores' (Tue, July 6, 12:00pm - 12:30pm EDT), 'Efficacy Webinar' (Wed, July 14, 4:00pm - 5:00pm EDT), 'DET v5 Launch' (Thu, July 22, 9:00am - 10:00am EDT), 'Test Readiness' (Thu, July 22, 4:00pm - 5:00pm EDT), and 'Cheese Tasting' (Mon, July 6, 8:00am - 10:00am EDT). A 'VIEW CALENDAR' button is located below the list.
- Support:** A section with links for 'FAQ', 'Email Support', and 'Live Chat'.
- Contact:** A section featuring a profile for 'Jane Doe' with contact information (jane.doe@duolingo.com, +1 855-555-1234 x1234, jdoe@duolingo.com/jane.doe) and a 'GET IN TOUCH' button.

## DASHBOARD

# Receiving Results





RESULTS


PRIOR TEST

INVITES

FILTER

EXPORT

| Surname(s) | Given Name(s) | Test Taken             | Score Sent             | Score | Interview            | Certificate  |
|------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------|----------------------|--|
| Kachmar    | Pavlo         | Jul 15, 2019, 12:24 PM | Jul 17, 2019, 10:29 AM | 125   | <a href="#">VIEW</a> | <a href="#">VIEW</a>  |
| Ogita      | Malachi       | Jul 15, 2019, 12:14 PM | Jul 17, 2019, 10:29 AM | 125   | <a href="#">VIEW</a> | <a href="#">VIEW</a>  |
| mandanka   | tanvi         | Jul 15, 2019, 12:28 PM | Jul 17, 2019, 10:29 AM | 100   | <a href="#">VIEW</a> | <a href="#">VIEW</a>  |
| Gito       | Christian     | Jul 15, 2019, 11:57 AM | Jul 17, 2019, 10:29 AM | 125   | <a href="#">VIEW</a> | <a href="#">VIEW</a>  |



Email: christiangito.freelancer@gmail.com

DOB: 1989-10-28

Coupon: VERSIONTHREE

Add notes... (Max 255 characters)

## DASHBOARD

# Video and Writing Sample

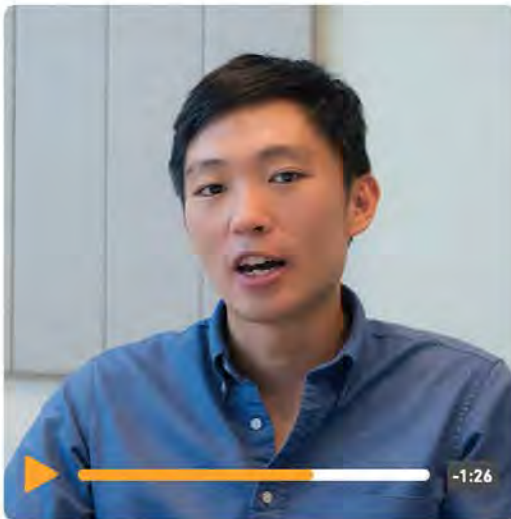


**Li, David**  
September 15, 2019

### VIDEO INTERVIEW

Describe the last place you visited with your family or close friends. What did you like most about this place? How could the place be improved for the people who visit there?

< 1 of 2 >



< 2 of 2 >

### RESPONSE

Money isn't always the only motivation for having a job. Other important reasons include the desire to be productive and to contribute to society. Many people truly enjoy utilizing their skills and serving people who need their assistance. I would keep a job even if I didn't need one to live so that I could remain connected to the world.

# Slate and other CRM integrations

The screenshot displays the Slate CRM interface for a user named David Li (ID: 123456). The interface includes a sidebar with navigation options: Dashboard, Application, Transcript, Recommend..., Essay, Portfolio, and Duolingo. The main content area shows a user profile card with a score of 120 and a date of 2020-07-15. Below the score, there are four sections: Literacy (125), Comprehension (135), Conversation (115), and Production (105). The Video Interview section contains a prompt: "Choose a plant or animal that you have learned about and that you think is interesting. Describe some of the challenges or dangers the organism faces and explain how it has adapted for survival." The Writing Sample section contains a prompt: "Agree or disagree with this statement: 'New technologies improve lives.' Explain your reasoning." A video player is visible on the right side of the profile card, showing a person speaking. A blue circular badge with the text "slate - SILVER PARTNER -" is overlaid on the right side of the interface.

slate

123456 Li, David

Search...

Dashboard

Application

Transcript

Recommend...

Essay

Portfolio

Duolingo

120 David Li 2020-07-15  
Score is on a scale of 160

125 Literacy 135 Comprehension 115 Conversation 105 Production

**VIDEO INTERVIEW**

Choose a plant or animal that you have learned about and that you think is interesting. Describe some of the challenges or dangers the organism faces and explain how it has adapted for survival.

**WRITING SAMPLE**

Agree or disagree with this statement: "New technologies improve lives." Explain your reasoning.

slate  
- SILVER PARTNER -

THE END

thanks!  
questions?

[institutional@duolingo.com](mailto:institutional@duolingo.com)

