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FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE AS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE LABOR MARKET

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Certificate is a document confirming knowledge of a foreign language and recognized by educational institutions, employers and other organizations in different countries of the world. The certificate can be obtained passing special exams in a foreign language, which developed and maintained by both private and public organizations.

Today, teachers of New Uzbekistan are increasingly working on themselves, studying and testing their knowledge of a foreign language. Progress in learning a foreign language begins with the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 19, 2021 No. PP-5117 “On measures to raise to a qualitatively new level activities to promote the study of foreign languages in the Republic of Uzbekistan”, where teachers of foreign languages of general secondary, secondary specialized and professional educational institutions that have a national or corresponding international certificate of a level not lower than C1, are exempted from testing in a foreign language module with an assessment of the maximum score for qualification tests during the test. At the same time, obtaining this certificate is recognized as an alternative form of advanced training. Also, starting from the 2021-2022 academic year, foreign language teachers of educational institutions who have a national or corresponding international certificate of at least C1 level are paid an additional monthly allowance of 50 percent to their basic tariff rate [1].

What types of certificates are recognized in our republic?

In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 312 dated May 19, 2021 "On measures to effectively organize the promotion of the study of foreign languages", international certificates such as International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT), Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL ITP), Cambridge Assessment English, APTIS for teachers, Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC), Lingua skill, Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT), Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA), Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (DELTA) recognized in the Republic of Uzbekistan [2].

Now, you are thinking about getting an international certificate. So how do you know which exam you really need? First of all, you need to answer the following questions:

1. In which country are you going to use the certificate? With English, the situation is as follows: taking TOEFL - an American English test - is often pointless if you are going to Europe, but almost all US universities require this particular certificate; Canada, despite its proximity to the United States, accepts the IELTS certificate.

2. Why do you need an international certificate? As a rule, we set the following goals: - getting a job; - getting an education; - emigration and citizenship; - own ambitions or desire to confirm the level of foreign language proficiency by an independent commission. Do you want to study at a foreign university? Get ready for a serious IELTS test, and, preferably, for a very decent score, at least 7.5. For admission to an educational institution in the United States, TOEFL is required, and the score must also be high enough. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that after two years these certificates become invalid, so there is no need to take these exams without deciding on the date of departure. 3. At what level do you speak a foreign language at this stage and how much time do you have to prepare for the chosen exam? Before setting a goal to get this or that international certificate, think about whether you have enough time to prepare for it and the knowledge to pass it successfully. Some exams require serious and regular study for months and sometimes years.

In March 2022, at the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute, teachers of the interfaculty department of foreign languages conducted an analysis among students of six departments. The goal is the needs analysis of ESP students was to provide faculty with information to “make informed decisions“ about planning designing and delivering English instruction in each major area, as per the collective voice of the students.

Participants worked in cluster teams and prepared and applied their surveys to students, reported their findings, and reflected on their plans for future syllabus designs that would satisfy the needs and desires of their students, and highlight the current importance of English on the global stage. Matrix of findings across six departments exploring student voices: student perspectives of ESP at NSPI in picture №1.

<p><u>Matrix of Findings Across Six Departments</u> <u>Exploring Student Voices: Student Perspectives of ESP at NSPI</u></p>							
	N	Gender	Student Perceived Proficiency Levels	Most Challenging Skill	Top 2 reasons to learn English	Most popular learning style	Student Dreams
Biology	118	M=20 F=98	77% pre-intermediate 23% beginners	Speaking 67% Writing 61%	IELTS-90% Master's Degree 90%	N/A	Travel 25% To master English 17%
Primary Education	100	M=9 F=91	50% beginners 35% pre-intermediate	Speaking 80% Writing 64%	Master's Degree 60% A better job 26%	N/A	Respected teacher 60% Master's Degree 30%
The Arts	80	M=26 F=54	51% pre-intermediate 23% beginners	Speaking 60% Listening 26%	Master's Degree 55% Travel 28%	N/A	Travel 15% Entrepreneur 9%
Russian Language and Literature	80	M=7 F=73	18% intermediate 82% pre-intermediate	Listening 42% Speaking 40%	IELTS 58% Travel 56%	Visuals 32% Kinesthetic 60%	IELTS 58% Degrees abroad 26%
History	65	M=45 F=20	70% beginners 30 %pre-intermediate	Speaking 60 Listening 60%	IELTS 25% Master's Degree 30%	Visuals 48% Kinesthetic 25%	To master English 29% Master's Degree 25 % Get IELTS 25%
Defectology/Special Education	60	M=7 F=53	50% pre-intermediate 30 % intermediate	Speaking 85% Listening 85%	IELTS 75% A better job 25%	Visuals 60% Kinesthetic 40%	Travel 66% To do h/w 1%

Picture 1

In total, student voices were heard by way of six department surveys and data suggests that most students want to learn English to successfully navigate the different English standardized tests, which will allow them to attend graduate school in both Uzbekistan, and abroad.

They also indicated a strong desire and motivation to improve their spoken and listening skills, to be prepared in English to follow their dreams and be successful in their professional and personal lives. Accordingly, a national or corresponding international certificate of the level of knowledge of a foreign language is the highest need in educational institutions of our republic.

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