

Guidelines for the use of the IAESTE Language Certificate (Appendix A10)

Purpose:

The IAESTE Language Certificate is intended to give proof of a student's language abilities. It is not intended to replace official language certificates from courses the student may have completed.

It is important for employers to be able to independently verify this before they accept the trainee. If the student does not have the necessary level of language required for a certain placement, this can lead to the trainee being sent home and the employer refusing to deal with IAESTE in future. To avoid this situation, the language certificate may be requested by the receiving country as part of the nomination package.

Timing and usage in the IAESTE process:

The IAESTE Language Certificate will be requested as part of a student's nomination package, where the country feels they need further clarification of the student's language abilities, for example when a language other than English is requested by an employer or it is important to the employer to have proof of the student's language level.

It may also be requested at a later date; if the employer needs further proof of a student's language abilities before acceptance, for example.

Filling in the form:

The IAESTE Language Certificate should only be filled in by one of the following people:

- A qualified language teacher at the university
- A qualified language teacher at an independent teaching facility
- An academic or employer who has worked with the student in an environment where only the specified language was used to communicate (both verbally and written). An explanation of the circumstances should be added in "Additional Comments".

Possible alternatives:

The IAESTE Language Certificate is not intended to replace official language certificates from courses the student has attended, therefore, there are alternatives which may be acceptable for employers, for example:

- An internationally recognised language certificate for example, IELTS or FCE
- A reference from an academic or an employer that states that the student has successfully worked in an environment where only the specified language was used for communication (both verbal and written)
- A telephone interview. NB. If a telephone interview is to be used as an alternative this must be pre-arranged with the sending country and the student, so that, a) the student is given time to prepare and b) there is no confusion about the time or phone number to be used.