Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**English Language Assessment**

Am I required to take the English Language Assessment (ELA)?
Yes. The English Language Assessment (ELA) is required of all newly admitted international graduate students whose native language is not English and for students from a country other than the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. **Note:** Students in the Bentley MBA program are exempt from taking the ELA.

Is there a cost to take the English Language Assessment?
No. The ELA is a service available to all newly admitted international students.

Why do I need to take the English Language Assessment?
The ELA is designed to help international students better understand their own linguistic strengths & weaknesses and to help Bentley identify students who need additional support in written and/or spoken English. Based on the results of the assessment, some students may be required to take further English language/academic support courses.

When will I take the English Language Assessment?
The ELA will take place during international graduate student jumpstart pre-orientation program.

What will I be tested on?
The ELA consists of a short oral interview and a written assessment. The oral assessment consists of a short (5-10 minute) in-person interview and a listening comprehension component. The written assessment consists of a 90-minute written assessment that will contain a series of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

What will the assessment results be used for?
The English language assessment is used to identify any students who may require additional academic support. Based on the results of the assessment, some students may be required to take further English language and academic support courses.

Can I be waived from taking the English Language Assessment?
International graduate students from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand are automatically waived from taking the English language assessment. Bentley MBA program students are waived as well. International students from all other countries, regardless of TOEFL scores or degree program, must take the assessment.

What happens if I fail the English language assessment?
The English language assessment is a *diagnostic*, not a formal examination, so there is no “pass” or “fail”. The assessment provides an indication whether or a student should take additional English language/academic support classes. Your assessment score does not affect your standing with the university or your ability to begin your academic program.

How do I get my results?
Approximately 7-10 days after you take the ELA, you will receive an email with instructions on how to access your scores.
What happens after I take the English Language Assessment?
Students whose performance indicates the need for support services are required to take additional academic/language support coursework. Students in this situation will be automatically registered for language and academic support classes. The tuition for these courses is $1,000 per course.

I did not have to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores for admission, so why am I required to participate in an English Language Assessment?
Many international students are deemed to have sufficient English language skills to study in the U.S. However, the English language assessment is designed to measure the competency a student needs to meet the graduation standards of Bentley University. If the results of the English language assessment indicate a weakness in a student’s English skills, the student will be required to take Business Writing for International Students or Oral Communications for International Students or both. (See FAQs for Success Factor Series courses).