

Examples of Bar Course applications – from potential or existing candidates who appear to be very weak in language and/or other skills.

Some comments and concerns from others are also included, as well as comments from candidates with weak language skills claiming discrimination.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2010 15:04  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** IELTS

Dear [REDACTED]

Now that you have received the below reply, which is from [REDACTED] and is of course concurrent with several emails I have sent to you, I will advise you no further on this matter.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
BPTC Assistant, Education Standards

Bar Standards Board  
Telephone: 0207 6111 444

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2010 15:00  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: ielts

Dear [REDACTED]

The requirement for those whose first language is not English is to obtain a minimum of 7.5 IELTS in each of the 4 sections (reading, writing, speaking, listening)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 17:20  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** ielts

What will be the ielts requierment for BPTC 2011-2012. I heard it is 7.5 in written and spoken english. Does I get a correct information , please inform.

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 October 2010 19:01  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: IELTS query - from [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** BPTCinfoable (2010-2011).doc

Dear [REDACTED] please forgive me for my disturbance to you. However I also see a document updated in 20-10- 2010.I attached it please see it and suggest me on it. By seeing multiple documents I am confused.Hence please don't mind, and for my interest please suggest me on the document I attached, as I will take my decision on the basis of your answers regarding the document I attached.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2010 14:47:34  
**Subject:** IELTS query - from [REDACTED]

Note: Forwarded message is attached.

Dear [REDACTED]

As you will see from below, your query has been forwarded to me by my colleague as I am the BPTC assistant and therefore have the correct and up to date information.

As I said yesterday, you must score 7.5 in each section of IELTS to satisfy the requirement. We have provided you with the answer to this query in full, on several occasions and cannot give you further information.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
BPTC Assistant, Education Standards

**Bar Standards Board**  
Telephone: 0207 6111 444

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 October 2010 09:41  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW:

[REDACTED]

See below and attached. Can you help with this enquiry?

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 17:31  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:**

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 October 2010 14:32  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** confusion regarding first language

Dear [REDACTED]

thanks a lot as you have read this email. you may well be aware of the issue i am willing raise by just looking at the subject field.

i am an international student currently in the final year of the LLB law degree. i have been in london for last 6 years and while studying full-time in a British institution, i have been working part time in a english environment too. i am applying for the BPTC this year, however; i am not too sure what is it meant by first language. even though i completed my secondary and higher-secondary education in Bangladesh with Bengali language, i had always been using english with my parents, friends and so forth since i was a child. i feel comfortable and even prefer English over other languages.

can i put English as my first language ? any help is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 November 2010 12:15  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: IS IELTS 7.5 individual mandatory for BPTC from 2012 SEPTEMBER SESSION.? CAN ANY STUDENT ELIGIBLE FOR BPTC WITHOUT IELTS 7.5 INDIVIDUAL from 2012 SEPTEMBER SESSION.?

I've had several other emails from this guy - equally incomprehensible (!) - but this seems to be one for you.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 November 2010 12:15  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** IS IELTS 7.5 individual mandatory for BPTC from 2012 SEPTEMBER SESSION.? CAN ANY STUDENT ELIGIBLE FOR BPTC WITHOUT IELTS 7.5 INDIVIDUAL from 2012 SEPTEMBER SESSION.?

i heard IELTS 7.5 individual is mandatory for BPTC from 2012 SEPTEMBER SESSION. NO OPTION IS EXIST WITHOUT IELTS 7.5 individual. for BPTC from 2012 SEPTEMBER SESSION.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 November 2010 21:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** can bptc started january ?

when bptc started ? i heard september-octobor session .Had it any january session ?

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: seeking for scholarship  
Date: Wed, 6 Oct 2010 12:58:55 +0600

hello! my name is [REDACTED] i have done LLB from Punjab University Law College. i wanted to get higher education from your esteemed and well reputed institution through scholarship, kindly help me out in this so that i may continue my studies.i shall be very thankful to you.  
thanks with best regards.  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of BSB Contact Us  
**Sent:** 16 September 2010 12:07  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED]

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 September 2010 08:55  
**To:** BSB Contact Us  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] request

Dear Sir/Madam

I have done LLB from Pakistan. Now im going to apply for GDL/CPE in Law College of London. So therefore i wana apply for Bar standard Certificate. Do i need to send u original documents or just photo copies are ok. Coz im going to pakistan & wl come back in november 2010. if original documents r must, then i wl apply in november. if not then i can apply now. All my documents r original & i did varify from uk notery public.

regards

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 July 2010 11:22  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Comment submitted from website

[REDACTED]

I don't know if you're still keeping a file of poor English queries, but if so this is definitely one to add.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 July 2010 11:17  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Comment submitted from website

Can we advise?

-----Original Message-----  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 02 July 2010 08:25  
To: BSB Contact Us  
Subject: FW: Comment submitted from website

Can someone from BSB help

-----Original Message-----  
From: Apache [mailto:apache@armadillo.room.net]  
Sent: 01 July 2010 17:57  
To: Contact US BC  
Subject: Comment submitted from website

The following comment was submitted by [REDACTED] from The Bar Council website.

Email address: [REDACTED]

hello barrister , i i am a young boy of [23] year of age who want to read law couse [ public and international law , sir give me ur guide line so dat i will adjust my playful .

THANKS [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 July 2010 16:16  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re:

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Sir

Thanks for your clear e-mail and thanks for make me understand what was going on but you mentioned that I could qualified as a Barrister if I get a certificate of academic standing so is the Barrister like solicitor make lawsuits and make arguments in Court of law and these lawyer actions and how to get it and do you think my SRA Certificate of academic standing qualify me to get yours certificate and when I get it is there any course should be taken after this, I hope you can help me with this . so is it possible but is the time enough to be worked as a Barrister in UK and how to work and what visa required because I am Egyptian not British yet . so what is going to be but please do not tell me eventually you need IELTS score 300/9( LOL ) like they did .

Yours Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 April 2010 12:45  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW:

Thought you might be interested to have a read of this.....

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of BSB Contact Us  
Sent: 09 April 2010 12:42  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 April 2010 12:06  
To: BSB Contact Us  
Subject:

please give us some decision about IELTS requirements. most of the students are in a very vague position. Please help the students from various countries because 7.5 is way too high for most of the students who though are good students yet are given lower marks in IELTS because of some racial or national biasness. The end date for final payment of BPTC is very close. So please try to give us a decision.

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 08 March 2010 13:29  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Feedback regarding IELTS

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of BSB Contact Us  
Sent: 05 March 2010 10:41  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Feedback regarding IELTS

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 04 March 2010 16:24  
To: BSB Contact Us  
Subject: Feedback regarding IELTS

Dear Sir

This is [REDACTED] writing from Bangladesh. I would like to state that the recent requirement of BSB for the BPTC which is IELTS 7.5 is being a very tough situation for students. I would request you to please low down the requirement if possible to a reasonable extent so that students from Asian countries can come and study BPTC. In our country most of the students choose to study UK LLB only because they want to become Barrister, and those who dont they usually study the Bangladeshi LLB. Due to this high score of IELTS many students are being discouraged to choose to study BPTC as well as Law. In such a situation we request you to please low down this requirement for the betterment of students of Bangladesh,

Thank You

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 January 2010 09:18  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: [REDACTED]

Good morning,

Is this a query you can deal with?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Personal Assistant to [REDACTED]  
Chair, Bar Standards Board  
Direct Line: 020 7611 1422  
Fax: 020 7831 9217  
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 10 January 2010 13:14  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

To respective department ,

my name is [REDACTED] whom im late for the application year 2010 for the bar. The application stil on the half way, yet i missed the closing date few days back. can my application still be ongoing ?? im sincerely and truthfully hope that i can study bar for the year 2010 .

Or, is ther any other way that can make my application goes on ??  
thanks and hopefully heard good news from you soon.

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 05 January 2010 14:07  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Applicant Enquiry

One for your file.

C

-----Original Message-----

From: MilkroundApplications@blackbox.milkround.com  
[mailto:MilkroundApplications@blackbox.milkround.com]  
Sent: 05 January 2010 14:04  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Applicant Enquiry

i am filling in tge registration, and there is a section asking me "what course?" what should i fill in the course column? as BPTC is not an option. it is a compulsory question.

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]  
Application Ref: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 December 2009 12:27  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: BVC/BPTC IELTS

[REDACTED]

An e-mail for your pink folder.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] On Behalf Of BSB Contact Us  
**Sent:** 02 December 2009 10:57  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: BVC/BPTC IELTS

Hi [REDACTED]

Can you please assist? I think basically the complaint must be invalid as the IELTS hasn't kicked in yet?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 November 2009 19:55  
**To:** BSB Contact Us  
**Subject:** BVC/BPTC IELTS

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are a group of students writing to you regarding the inadequate standards of the BVC/BPTC course. Our complaint is centered on the guidelines for International students who come to undertake the course. Since we have started the course we have found it very difficult to focus on our course where a group of International students have been granted admission without the IELTS requirement. We understand that for some International students it is a requirement to study in the UK for them to practise. We have come across students with 7.5 who are coping very well on the course, so it is evident that our provider is giving places to students without the score. Furthermore, we have contacted other students in different institutions who have confirmed that there has been International students admitted without the IELTS score. We have spoken to such students who think they can get away because they have paid for the course.

We hope that you would be kind enough to look into these problems as it is hindering our own studies, tutors are spending considerable time focusing on the basics so they understand the topic, this is leaving us with small amounts of time to focus on the course on a deeper level. This is an anonymous email address but we hope our concerns will be addressed.

Regards  
Students of the BVC

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of BSB Contact Us  
**Sent:** 08 September 2009 10:07  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Few inquiries regarding BVC

Dear [REDACTED]

Did we know about the telephone interview allegations previously? Are you able to respond to this person?

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 September 2009 01:04  
**To:** BSB Contact Us  
**Subject:** Few inquiries regarding BVC

Hi

ouble staa

I am a law student and successfully completed my LLB with a 2.2. Many students like me offered for BVC from different institute, but at-last unfortunately we cannot make a way to the BVC because of the IELTS requirements, fixed by the BAR STANDARD BOARD. Now we come to know that few institutes maintaining the double standards such as ICSL and Northumbria. Few Bangladeshi students demanded English as their first language, if they will sit for IELTS, no one will able to achieve 6 also, but after that they got a chance for anyone's dreaming course. It's come to our knowledge that few students are entered by telephone interviewing. The interview was really a funny one and just asked only 2 questions like what is your name and why do you want to do BVC. If it is seems equivalent with IELTS 7.5 to the Bar Standard Board, then we have nothing to say but doing injustice towards few people who are going to miss their one year. So far we know that, this year it should not be happen, and if it is so then what is our fault, why are we out of this course. Few people just avoid the deposit money as because they are frequently answered that they would not going to consider .5 also. Now what was their fault in that particular case. So what we will do, we have our degree but few people are going to be a Barrister with 33 marks in a subject like jurisprudence. We are just speechless and heart is bleeding.

We will be pleased if anyone can explain us why this double standard are maintained and why Bar Standard Board doing like this.

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 September 2009 13:23  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Requirements To Get Into Bar Vocational Course

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 September 2009 09:08  
**To:** BSB Contact Us  
**Subject:** Re: Requirements To Get Into Bar Vocational Course

Dear sirs,

Hi! I am one of the student who is studying LLB under University of London External Programme at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I did my registration to university of London on September 2005. I would like to have some enquiries as below:-

- 1) "Graduates must have passed all subjects in not more than 3 attempts" means the maximum of the attempts are 3 times? Correct? And sitting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> times for the attempts still can be able to apply for London BAR? And taking referral paper is not to be counted as an attempt right?
- 2) What is the limitation period of time to apply for the London BAR after graduating from LLB?
- 3) The requirements for student who is registered for LLB under University of London External Programme in September 2005 are only to take European Union Law and get the classification for at least 2<sup>nd</sup> class lower right?
- 4) There are four ancient Inns of Court : Gray's Inn, Lincoln Inn, Middle temple and Inner Temple. The entry to the Inn is depend on the results? Which Inn is the best and need the top requirements? And each time can apply how many Inns?
- 5) To apply London BAR, the student needs to request an application pack through the Centralised Applications and Clearing Scheme (CACH) first? How to get the application pack through CACH for a student from Malaysia? And what are the ingredients for the application pack? Can a Malaysia applies it via using internet?
- 6) "Before commencing Bar Vocational Course (BVC), applicants must have joined an Inn of court as a Student Member" means applicants need to apply to be a student member under an Inn 1<sup>st</sup> before applying BVC? Should the applicants apply the Inns directly that the applicants intended? After being a member of Inn, the applicants will automatically commence into BVC?
- 7) Before applying the Inns, the applicants need to apply the local universities in UK 1<sup>st</sup>?
- 8) Is the Bar Standard s Board (BSB) same as BVC? What are the requirements to enter BSB? Is the BSB will start on 2011?

Looking forward for your prompt response regarding the queries that I mentioned as above. Your kind assistance to this matter will be appreciated.

Thank you.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of BSB Contact Us  
**Sent:** 08 September 2009 10:07  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: My Question

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear [REDACTED]

I'm not entirely sure what this person is asking. Hopefully it will be clearer to you.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 September 2009 22:37  
**To:** BSB Contact Us  
**Subject:** Ref: My Question

Good Morning Sir/Madam.

I am not qualified solicitor of England and wales. I just making my programme to apply to bar for doing me bar at law. Could you tell me what procedure should i follow and further main thing, what would be the length of time the Certificate for sitting the test last. Is there any dead line on the certificate after which it gets expired.

I have looked at the guide line but it does not say any thing about the length of time.

Looking forward to hear from you.

With regards.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 October 2009 12:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: what should i do for the bptc?

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**From:** [REDACTED] On Behalf Of BSB Contact Us  
**Sent:** 22 October 2009 12:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: what should i do for the bptc?

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 October 2009 23:23  
**To:** BSB Contact Us  
**Subject:** what should i do for the bptc?

Dear sir,

I am [REDACTED] is a international student from Bangladesh.I have passed LLB(hons)from University of london.  
student number [REDACTED] I had an offer from University of Northumbria for bvc but unfortunately i could not full fill the requirement due to the sickness of the exam time what i did mitigate with the University but there was no reflection on my result at the end i have got third class and at the same time my vbc offer was laps.I know there is no hope for this year but could you please give me some direction that how can i catch the next year BPTC.?  
Is there any problem if i want to do the GDL?after asses all of my matters please give me some advise that what should be my next step to become a barrsiter as early as possible.?  
I am passing really the terrible period what i did not face ever in my life so one of your good idea can save my life.

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 25 October 2010 16:31  
To: [REDACTED] or  
Subject: About first language

Dear Sirs,

I have been filling the BPTC application, an enquiry to you about 1st Language as my Mother speaks two languages I born overseas. So, any one will be my 1st language or both?

Thanks indeed to reply.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Contact: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] behalf of BSB Contact Us  
Sent: 13 October 2010 10:15  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Comment submitted from website

Good morning

Not sure whether we can provide an answer to this correspondent. Are you able to provide a response?

Regards

-----Original Message-----

From: Apache [mailto:apache@armadillo.rroom.net]  
Sent: 12 October 2010 10:48  
To: BSB Contact Us  
Subject: Comment submitted from website

The following comment was submitted by [REDACTED] from the Bar Standards Board website.

Email address: [REDACTED]

dear sir/madame,

i have got a specific question. i know your ielts rule but i am confused my its discriminatory application.

i am a prospective applicant so i need to have a clear idea about this.

suppose in some small bptc provider they asked students to go for ielts by seeing their passport. they did not consider anything. a lot of students are doing bar every year (from commonwealth nations), the fact is this common wealth countries also use english their official and first language. so how you can refer them for ielts??? this year a lot of students got this ielts referral after their induction. even before any assessment. they told that they need to show BSB that they have done it. SO NOW SOME STUDENTS ARE THEIR SCAPEGOAT!!!! WHAT A WAY TO CHEAT??? i can tell you that you need to scrutinise this issues. Large provider like city law school doesn,t bother about this rule as long as one have effective english skill.

sir, from the office sometime you can,t find what,s happening in the grassroot label, that,s for sure. so i think you need to examine whats happening inside bpp, college of law.

if hundreds of city law student can do this then why not others as long as they possess effective english? is this not a discrimination???????

thanks

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 October 2009 17:19  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Deception Regarding IELTS!

**Importance:** High  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

[REDACTED]

Please find attached the e-mail string conversation with regards to a report of IELTS deception.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 August 2009 16:13  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Deception Regarding IELTS!

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your response to my email. I am fully delighted to acknowledge the fact that the Bar Standards Board and the Providers of the BVC are working together to ensure the entry requirements are maintained.

Relying on your assurance that all information I supply to you will be dealt with in a confidential manner I am ready to inform you some of my fellow candidates' names so that it becomes easy for you to monitor the situation.

Candidates like [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and more four or five candidates with the help of their respected teachers are planning a solution to avoid the IELTS requirements and get easy access to BVC by claiming English as their First language which I fear is completely untrue.

I request you to take strong action against them and allow genuine candidates to study BVC.

Regards

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Aug 18, 2009 at 7:49 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail. We fully appreciate the fact that you have informed us of your concerns regarding the IELTS requirements. From 2009, when enrolling on the BVC, all candidates for whom English or Welsh is not their first language must demonstrate that they have attained a minimum 7.5 IELTS standard in all sections of the academic test. We are asking candidates to bestow an honest response to the Provider regarding the details of their first spoken language.



The BVC Course Specification Requirements and Guidance states that 'subsequent to being admitted to the BVC, should the BVC provider consider that a student's language ability is unsatisfactory, it may require the student to take the IELTS (at the student's cost)'. If the student then fails to achieve a score of 7.5 in all sections of the IELTS test the student may be asked to withdraw from the course. This will obviously have financial implications for that candidate.

I hope this information has reassured you that the Bar Standards Board and the Providers of the BVC are working together to ensure the entry requirements are maintained.

If you are willing to inform us of your fellow candidates names we will be able to monitor the situation. All information you supply to us will be dealt with in a confidential manner.

Thank you once again for notifying us of your concerns.


Kind regards

  
  
Administrative Assistant, Education Standards  
The Bar Standards Board, 289-293 High Holborn, London. WC1V 7HZ

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From:   
Sent: 16 August 2009 19:59  
To: Membership  
Subject: Deception Regarding IELTS!

Dear Sir/Madam

I am fully aware that from 2009, all candidates for whom English is not their first language must demonstrate that they have attained a minimum 7.5 IELTS in each component of the examination. But I regret to inform you that a number of my fellow Bangladeshi candidates who got BVC conditional offers regarding IELTS requirements from City Law School are now avoiding IELTS by claiming that English is their First language! Many students already informed them about it and now waiting for their offer letters.

I understand that it is a clear deception and I have responsibility to inform you. I strongly believe that a candidate should achieve a place in BVC only on his/her own capability and not relying on untrue events.

I therefore request you to take strong action against this wrong doing and allow fair students to get a place in BVC.

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 November 2009 16:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

She states she has 6.5 IELTS, and the course director says 7.5 is needed. Then gradually he softens, and asks her to confirm that English is in fact her first language. Which she does. Now (20 Nov 09) it seems she does not have Inn membership either.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 October 2009 17:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: BVC part time 2009-2011

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 October 2009 17:14  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: BVC part time 2009-2011

Dear [REDACTED]

As requested I am forwarding the entire exchange of e-mails between [REDACTED]

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 October 2009 17:37  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: BVC part time 2009-2011

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 August 2009 09:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

Dear [REDACTED]

On the basis that English is your first language there shouldn't be an issue.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 August 2009 09:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

[REDACTED]  
Yes, I confirm that English is in fact my first language. This should have been evident from the very beginning.  
Regards  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2009 12:38 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

Is your first language in fact English?  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 August 2009 13:57  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

So have you now spoken to the BSB and this what they said?  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 August 2009 12:42  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

Please find a way out for me. I need to do the BVC at the BPP Law School in Leeds. I have already paid GBP3,460.-  
There may be an exception. [REDACTED] stated that "a valid reason for your not complying with this by the  
deadline" should be given.  
I sincerely was not aware about the IELTS. Can you please check it with the Bar Council again.  
Thank you  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2009 3:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

My understanding is that you would have to attend with your certificate on 3 September 2009 showing IELTS scores  
of 7.5 in all areas.  
A contact at the BSB is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 August 2009 12:21  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: BVC part time 2009-2011

Will you please give me the email address of the contact person at the Bar Council.  
Thank you

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2009 3:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

Ok, it would appear that I have no choice. I shall have to do the IELTS side by side (through the British Council) with BVC.  
I am looking forward to see you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2009.  
Regards

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2009 3:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

My understanding is that the requirement is a score of 7.5 in all areas. This is a BSB requirement not one imposed simply by BPP.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 August 2009 11:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

As a matter of fact I have already done the IELTS for another purpose and I scored an overall qualification of 6.5 which was more than sufficient for that purpose. May I produce this certificate when I come on the third of September 2009.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2009 2:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

I've managed to contact [REDACTED] the Director of the BVC.  
The BSB requirement is that if English is not your first language will need to do IELTS. We don't have any flexibility at all.

The current conditions apply not those which have now been superseded.  
It is therefore vital that you make sure you fulfil the IELTS requirement.  
I'm sorry I can't be of more help on this occasion.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 August 2009 09:19

To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: BVC part time 2009-2011  
Thank you [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 12:16 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: BVC part time 2009-2011

I am going to discuss this with [REDACTED] to see if there is anything at all we can do to assist. He is currently in Asia so there is a time difference. Please leave this with me.  
Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 25 August 2009 08:55  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: BVC part time 2009-2011

Please note that I have secured a place at the BPP Law School since Year 2007 and have had two deferrals due to circumstances. The IELTS was not one of the requirements. I have struggled to get the local leaves from the Bank where I am working, I have fulfilled all the requirements to obtain the unconditional letter from the BPP Law School and even paid an additional amount of GBP3,210.- as per requirement, to get a student visitor's visa. I have paid my air ticket and I am about to leave on next Monday to be on time at the BPP Law School in Leeds for the induction course of 3-6 September 2009. What shall I do now?  
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 13 November 2009 15:11  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Odp: BPTC Query

Dnia 9-11-2009 o godz. 11:53 [REDACTED] napisal(a):

Dear [REDACTED]

I have contacted my BVC provider and I was advised the following:

As you know the BSB require that all students for whom English or Welsh is not their first language attain a minimum 7.5 in all sections of the IELTS test. The requirement is very strict. If a student were to declare that English/Welsh is their first language when that is not the truth, that dishonesty would be taken very seriously. The student would be caught out by the BVC Provider (and/or possibly by the BSB when they visit) and the student would face expulsion from the course. The BSB would report the matter to the student's Inn and the student would in all likelihood be permanently expelled from being a member of an Inn of Court too.

The Bar is a profession based on honesty which requires strict adherence to the Bar Council's Code of Conduct.

I understand that the following, but I find a definition of English as a first language unclear. I understand that certain concession can be made, in case of education and communication with family members, but what if I want to benefit from such concessions and in the same time not fall short of the Bar Council's Code of Conduct. Is there a safe regulatory procedure that I can undertake? Finally, I find these sanctions disproportionate, considering the lack of publication. Having I not enquired the matter with provider, I might have face very adverse disciplinary consequences. I am not sure whether this is appropriate as far as principles of criminal law are concerned.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]  
Hi there,

If you feel that English is the language that you speak primarily, then you can make a declaration that English is your first language, which will release you from the initial requirement to take the test.

You should be confident in your grasp of English language, as if it is not strong enough, and you commence the BPTC, you can be required to take IELTS at any stage of the course. If you then do not score 7.5 in each section, you can be asked to leave the course, along with any financial implications this may incur.

I hope this information is useful, however if you have any other queries regarding the BPTC, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 November 2009 13:31  
**To:** BSB Contact Us  
**Subject:**

Dear Sir/Madam,  
If I am married to a British citizen, does it mean that I am released from IELTS requirement for BPTC, as English is the language that I use at home, among my relatives?  
Regards,  
[REDACTED]

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Michael Jackson's This Is It: POLECAM!  
Zobacz zwiastun  
<http://klik.wp.pl/?adr=http://corto.www.wp.pl/as/jacksonzwiastun.html&sid=905>

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Pudzian czy Najman?  
Najdroższa walka w historii polskiego MMA  
Polecam 12 edycję Gali KSW!

Fax: 0207 831 9217

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2009 14:47  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Cardiff BVC

Dear Both

We have recently had our first batch of practice assessments and there are a number of students about whom we have concerns in relation to their use of English. You will know from what I have said previously that I feel in a bit of a difficult position because I am not clear what is meant by the definition of "first language".

I would be very grateful if you could advise me as to what should be done in relation to these students.

many thanks

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 November 2009 12:23  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Cardiff BVC: IELTS tests

[REDACTED]

Thank you. They have all declared that English is their first language!

Regards

[REDACTED]  
BVC Course Leader  
Cardiff Law School

029 20874964

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 13/11/2009 12:21  
**Subject:** RE: Cardiff BVC: IELTS tests

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This is to confirm [REDACTED] response.

If there are concerns about the standard of English then the student (as in the 'Golden Book') they must be required to take the test – and leave if they do not achieve minimum of 7.5 in each section.

ie no need (at this point to define first language). But it would be interesting to see if any are required to take the test who have declared that English was their first language. Please let us know.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2009 15:28  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Cardiff BVC

Dear [REDACTED]

We suggest that if a Provider has concerns about a student's English language abilities that they ask them to take the IELTS and if they do not achieve 7.5 in all sections, to remove them from the course. I agree that the "first language" thing is very difficult, but you would not need to approach it in that way.

If it helps [REDACTED] had a similar case last year and [REDACTED] dealt with a couple as well.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Education Officer  
Bar Standards Board  
Phone: 020 7611 1444



[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 20 November 2009 13:40  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: FW:

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 20 November 2009 13:17  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: FW:

Ok mam, thats fine i can understant, but mam from ur personal capacity can u give me some guide line on how right this section "Please provide specific examples of your ability to quickly and accurately analyse large amounts of written information", what type of experiences will fit in this section. Mam, please accept my apology, for making a further request. I hope my this mail is not disturbing u.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

On Thu, Nov 19, 2009 at 3:09 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

The Bar Standards Board is not able to provide guidance on this matter. Applicants must complete the application form as they see fit.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education Officer

Bar Standards Board

Phone: 020 7611 1444

Fax: 0207 831 9217

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From: asif iqbal [mailto:asifiqbal2003@gmail.com]  
Sent: 19 November 2009 08:14  
To: Sophie Maddison  
Subject:

Dear Sir, I am an overseas student, doing my LLB Honors from Northumbria University UK. Currently I am a final year student planning to apply for BPTC this year, for 2010-2011 session.

Recently, I saw the BPTC application form, which was released on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

In the form I found that there are 8 essays (mandatory) an applicant has to write about himself.

1. Please confirm your level of language and computing skills.
2. Please detail any mini-pupillages or other Bar related experiences that you have undertaken.
3. Please describe what you understand the work of a barrister to involve.
4. Please explain why you want to train as a barrister.
5. Please provide specific examples of your ability to quickly and accurately analyse large amounts of written information.
6. Please provide specific examples of where you have advised or helped an individual in distress.
7. Please provide specific examples of how you have developed your advocacy and public speaking skills.
8. Please describe a time when you have been particularly under pressure and how you organised your work.

Can you please, give me some guide line on how to write these essays, what possible things an applicant, being a student, can write on these areas. It will be very helpful for me, if you can site some examples on each of the areas, so that I can get a clear idea.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 05 July 2010 09:01  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: IELTS RESULT MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 03 July 2010 10:43  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: IELTS RESULT MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

Dear Madam,

I am glad to have your prompt reply and I will try to do a re sit however there is one advice to the Wood group that if they wanted to have any score than that could have either been 7 or 8 in all sections of IELTS but to have some way in between shows there discrimination towards Asian students.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

— On Fri, 7/2/10, [REDACTED] > wrote:

From: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: IELTS RESULT MINIMUM REQUIREMENT  
To: [REDACTED]  
Date: Friday, July 2, 2010, 9:14 AM

Dear [REDACTED]

Whilst I sympathise with your situation, I'm afraid the Wood group concluded that 7.5 in all sections of IELTS was reasonable, suitable and necessary. The requirement has been decided, written and stands consistently for all applicants.

There are many others in your situation and the rules and requirements must be consistently and comprehensively applied to all.

The requirement does not have exceptions for education or compensation for close marks. I'm afraid my only advice would be work on the areas in which you did not score 7.5 and re sit the IELTS test.

I'm sorry this is not the answer you are looking for, but we must treat everyone exactly the same and we must apply the regulations of the Wood group fully.

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 30 June 2010 20:34  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: IELTS RESULT MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

Dear Madam,

I write with reference to the captioned matter.

I would like to submit that recently I was offered a place in the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) from the City Law School (CLS) and it was a conditional offer which required at least a lower second class degree, membership of the Inns of Court and a score of 7.5 in each section of IELTS test.

I would like to inform you that I have successfully met all the requirements. However, in regard to my IELTS result the CLS have some reservations which they wanted me to resolve from the Bar Standard Board. It is pertinent to point out that the Board has set an overall band score of 7.5 in IELTS (with two 7.5's in Reading and Listening whereas, two 7's in Speaking and Writing). It is my submission that although I did not achieve a band 7.5, I have studied English Language throughout my education. I have done O-levels and A-levels (University of Cambridge) and then I did my Bachelors in Law from University of London as an external student from Institutions where the mode of education was English and I have never had any problem with speaking or understanding English but just because I could not achieve 7.5 in my two sections and in fact what I have got are two 7's, my whole legal career is at stake. My contention is that the underlying reason of incorporating IELTS as the mandatory requirement of BPTC is to make sure that the candidate is well versed when it comes to verbal as well as written expression of English, therefore, my plea is that if my above mentioned reasons are satisfactory enough to prove my grasp on the English Language than I may kindly be granted some consideration and relaxation from this requirement as I just lag behind by a 0.5, that too, in just two sections. I am attaching herewith a Copy of my results of O-levels, A-levels, LLB Degree and IELTS result for your kind perusal, view and comments.

I am humbly requesting you to please consider my above submissions as becoming the Barrister at Law has been my passion, my dream and I have worked very hard for its achievement. It shall indeed shatter me if I am unable to pursue my heart felt desire which is at the verge of realization.

Thanking you in anticipation.