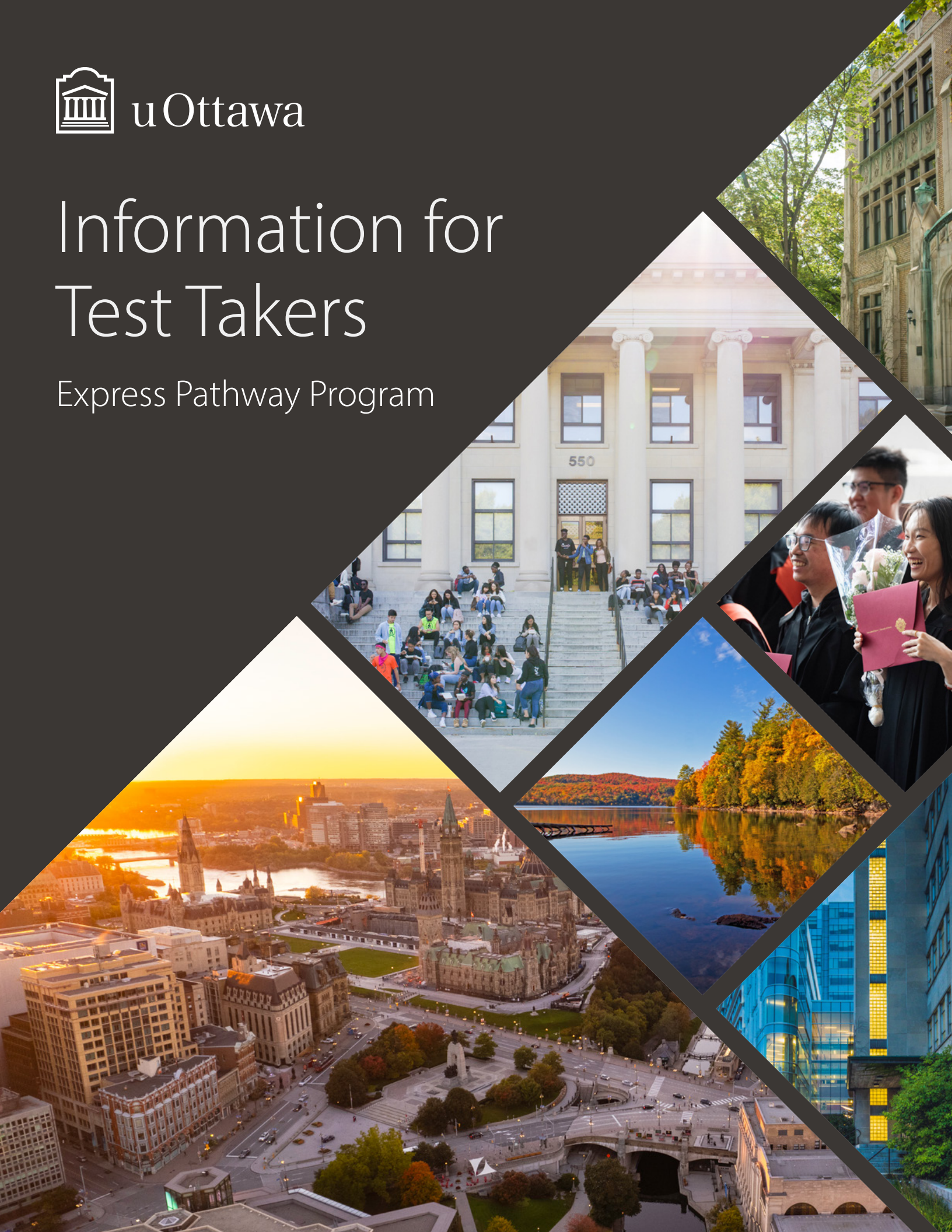




Information for Test Takers

Express Pathway Program



The Centre for Language Learning offers highly effective English language programs designed to maximize learning and build confidence.

The Centre for Language Learning's **Express Pathway Program** offers you the opportunity to participate in an innovative admissions program through the combination of customized testing and highly effective English language training to support your admission into undergraduate programs at the University of Ottawa. We are incredibly happy to be part of your future academic journey!

Delivered by experienced and qualified instructors, the **Express Pathway Program** will help you acquire the necessary skills to succeed in your studies at the University of Ottawa. Using various resources and tools, we will help you:

- Learn the discourse structures, grammar, and vocabulary required for effective academic writing and oral presentations
- Understand and communicate ideas in English more efficiently in various social and academic contexts
- Develop critical thinking and study skills for success in your undergraduate program
- Be ready for a smooth transition from high school to university studies in Canada

Did you know?

Students with conditional offers to the University of Ottawa are 3.5% more likely to graduate than domestic students, and 12% more likely to graduate than are international students who did not enroll in the English Intensive Program.

Accelerated Academic Bridging in English:

Here you'll find the course schedules and the course components



uOttawa Viewbook 2023-2024:

Scan this QR code to find out more about the list of programs offered at uOttawa, and why Ottawa is the place to be for students



uOttawa is YOUR campus

Benefit from state-of-the-art facilities on uOttawa's campus! As a uOttawa student you can:

- Stay active by accessing the campus gyms and recreation centres.
- Study alone or with your classmates in one of uOttawa's libraries.
- Join one of our 100+ student clubs - you are sure to find something for you and meet students with common interests!
- The University also offers on-campus physical and mental health services to all students.



Julien Couture Resource Centre

The Julien Couture Resource Centre contains an extensive collection of documents and modern technological equipment to support students who are strengthening their English language skills. It's a great, quiet place to study, borrow books, and participate in workshops. Our reception attendants are there to welcome you, guide you, and help you during your studies!



Be a part of the student community at uOttawa

The Express Pathway Program not only prepares you for university studies; we go beyond the classroom! You'll have the chance to immerse yourself in Canadian culture and life by participating in weekly class outings. You may also join our social clubs to interact with uOttawa's diverse community. Students take part in active learning in a rich multicultural environment – the best way to learn well and fast!



Ottawa:
The Place
to be



Living in Ottawa

Did you know Ottawa is the capital city of Canada? Ottawa is one of the safest and most beautiful capital cities in the world. It offers a wide variety of urban attractions, while maintaining the atmosphere and charm of a smaller city centre, with easy access to spectacular parks and trails. The University of Ottawa campus is located right downtown so there's always something to do when you want to take a break from hitting the books! The light rail station located on campus makes it easy to get around the city too.



Chat with our ambassadors

Want to know more about student life? Start a chat with current students and graduates who had a conditional offer to uOttawa! Ask our student ambassadors about the courses, student community, what to do in Ottawa, and much more.



Stay with us!

Students with a conditional offer of admission from uOttawa may stay in student residence. Studies have shown that first-year students who stay in residence adjust better to university and receive more support than those who live off campus. You'll feel right at home living in one of our 11 residences! With so many choices, you're sure to find the perfect place for you. The best part is you'll be neighbours with all the new friends you make.

Express Pathway Program

Testing and Language Training Information for Students

Language Testing

After applying to the undergraduate program(s) of your choice and meeting the academic requirements for admission into the University of Ottawa, you will be invited to take the **Express Pathway Language Test**. This evaluation will consist of the following:

1. Writing test (60 minutes):

- a. Dates: Saturday, November 5 / Saturday, March 4
- b. Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST: UTC +8)
- c. Delivery Mode: Zoom & MS Word Online

2. Speaking Test (30 minutes)

- a. Dates: Saturday, November 5 / Saturday, March 4
- b. Time: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm (CST: UTC +8) *
- c. Delivery Mode: Zoom & MS Word Online

**We will contact you to schedule a 30-minute time slot within this scheduled period.*

To take this test, you will need the following:

- 1. A reliable laptop or desktop computer equipped with webcam, microphone and headset or speakers;
- 2. Reliable internet access with an average broadband speed over 20 MBPS;
- 3. Designated workspace to minimize disruptions

More information about these tests can be found on the following page.



Writing Test

For the **first stage** of the test, you will have 60 minutes to write a 300-word essay on a general topic. Here is how the test will be administered:

- One week prior to the test, you will receive a **link to Zoom**. You will be asked to join us at least 15 minutes before the start of the test.
- Once you arrive to take the test, you will be asked to show your identification (ID) to the test invigilators. Your identification must include a picture and your first and last name. You will need to have your camera on and to show your identification (ID) to the screen.
- Just before the start of the test you will receive a link to your writing test through the Zoom chat feature. The link will bring you to an **MS Word online document** that you will use to write your essay.
- You will have one hour to complete your essay.
- A staff member from the University of Ottawa will be available in the Zoom meeting room to help you.
- You must keep your camera on when completing the test.

Please see **Appendix 1** (below) to more information about the writing test.

Speaking Test

The **second stage** of the test will involve an oral interview that will last 15 to 20 minutes. Here is how the test will be administered.

- One week prior to the test, you will receive a **link to Zoom** (where you will have your interview) and your **interview time**.
- Your interview will last 15 to 20 minutes.
- Make sure you enter your zoom interview room at least **10 minutes** before the start of your interview. When the interviewers are ready to evaluate you, they will let you into the zoom interview room.
- Once you arrive to take the test, you will be asked to show your identification (ID) to the test invigilators. Your identification must include a picture and your first and last name. You will need to have your camera on and to show your identification (ID) to the screen.
- The interview will be given by two language instructors from the University of Ottawa. One instructor will speak with you while the other instructor will take notes.
- You must keep your camera on when completing this test,

Please see Appendix 2 (below) to more information about the writing test.

Language Training

If you meet the language admission requirement for the University of Ottawa Express Pathway Program, you will receive a conditional offer of admission to the University of Ottawa. We will then contact you to encourage you to enroll in the course **Accelerated Academic Bridging in English**, which will be offered online from **July 3 to August 25, 2023**. After successfully completing this course, you will be able to start your undergraduate studies in September 2023.

Appendix 1

Writing Test Information

For the writing test, your task will be to write a response of approximately 300 words. You will have 60 minutes to complete this task.

You will be asked to use only the MS Word Online document to develop your response. Use of outside resources such as other websites, dictionaries or translation tools will not be allowed.

Sample Question:

Children who are brought up in families that do not have large amounts of money are better prepared to deal with the problems of adult life than children brought up by wealthy parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

You will be asked to give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Suggestions:

1. Read the prompt carefully and make sure you understand the question.
2. Spend a couple of minutes on brainstorming ideas and developing an outline.
3. Write approximately 300 words to answer all parts of the question in an essay format.
4. Organize your essay logically, with clear progression using linking phrases.
5. Do not use memorized language, phrases, or examples (Copying and pasting will result in failure).
6. Check your response carefully for grammar and word choice errors.

Minimum Required Performance:

To meet the **minimum requirements** for admission into the Express Pathway Program, your essay will have the following characteristics:

- Your intended meaning will be generally clear throughout the essay although grammatical and vocabulary errors may exist.
- You will be able to use simple sentences and basic vocabulary accurately, but you may have difficulty with complex sentences.
- Your main idea will be somewhat clear and there will be some evidence of a progression of ideas.



Appendix 2

Speaking Test Information

The speaking interview test will consist of three parts:

- 1. Familiar topic questions:** In this part of the interview, you will be required to answer general questions on a range of familiar topics, such as family, hobbies, work, hometown, etc.

Sample familiar topic questions:

- a. Do you often watch TV?
- b. What sorts of things do you watch on TV?
- c. What is your favourite TV program?

- 2. Cue-card questions:** You will then be asked to talk about a particular topic. You will be given 1 minute to look at a cue card and prepare a response of approximately 2 minutes.

Sample cue-card questions: Describe a book you have recently read.

- a. What kind of book is it?
- b. What it is about?
- c. What sort of people would enjoy it?
- d. Explain why you liked it.

- 3. Discussion questions:** In this final part of the speaking interview, you will answer additional questions about the topic in part 2 (cue-card questions). This will give you the opportunity to expand on your responses and discuss more complex ideas and issues.

Sample discussion questions:

- a. Is reading an essential part of your culture?
- b. What do people prefer these days: reading e-books or regular books? Why?
- c. What are some advantages and disadvantages of reading e-books?

Suggestions:

When taking this test, keep the following points in mind:

1. Be calm. Our examiners are very nice.
2. Speak clearly throughout the interview. Do not try to speak too fast to impress.
3. Make sure to listen carefully to understand the questions.
4. If you do not understand a question or part of a question, feel free to ask the examiner to repeat or rephrase the question.
5. Be mindful of time, especially for section 2.
6. Use linking words and phrases to increase cohesion and coherence within your responses.



Minimum Required Performance:

To meet the **minimum requirements** for admission into the Express Pathway Program, your performance will have the following characteristics:

- You will be able to understand most straightforward messages and maintain conversations on familiar topics.
- Most simple sentence structures you use in the discussion will be accurate although errors may sometimes interfere with communication.
- You will have adequate vocabulary to communicate on general and familiar topics.
- Your accent or mispronunciations may occasionally interfere with communication.

*I decided to apply to the University of Ottawa because I am really interested in the Social Science programs. For this program, because my first language is not English, even though I have a lot of experience in my high school, [...] academically my English is not perfect to go into an undergraduate course so I think **this English language program is really helpful for me to transfer from high school to university.***

*The professors really helped me a lot. They share a lot of useful websites and online tools for us to know how to do references and citations, for example. They are also very patient with us. **It has made me more confident in academic writing, listening, and reading.***

*We also have a lot of sociocultural activities. I like to explore the city and go to museums or go walk around the city with our friends in our class. **The sociocultural activities really help us to get to know each other in our free time.***



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Student in the Faculty of Social Sciences



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