

Policy and Process for Restricting Candidate Resits in Classic IESOL Qualifications

1. Purpose

To safeguard the integrity of Classic IESOL qualifications and mitigate the risk of malpractice by introducing restrictions on the number and frequency of candidate resits.

2. Policy Statement

Candidates who fail one or more components of a Classic IESOL qualification may resit twice within 12 months of their original test date. The proportionate registration fees will apply to the resit registration(s) in line with the standard prices.

If the candidate fails one or more components on their third attempt, they will be subject to a 12-month registration restriction from the *original test date* before any further resit attempts are permitted.

3. Rationale and Ofqual Alignment

This policy supports Gatehouse Awards' compliance with the following Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition:

- **Condition A6.1 – Identification and management of risks**
This policy mitigates the risk of repeated candidate attempts being used to exploit weaknesses in the exam bank, particularly as delivery of the tests are undertaken at Centres, including invigilation, which presents a higher risk of malpractice.
- **Condition A8.1 – Malpractice and maladministration**
Limiting resits deters organised malpractice, especially in high-risk locations, by reducing the opportunity for repeat access to test content for the purpose of gaining unfair advantage. It also provides protection against Centres registering candidates for tests they are not ready for and encourages Centres to ensure that all candidates have received adequate access to learning prior to undertaking their assessment.
- **Condition B3.2 – Review and development of assessment materials**
The policy works in tandem with the expansion of our live item banks, thereby reducing the risk of a breach of confidentiality in our assessment materials.
- **Condition G1.1 – Setting and delivering the assessment**
Implementing resit restrictions ensures assessments remain fit for purpose and reflect a fair measure of learner performance over time, not just through repetition.
- **Condition G4.1 – Maintaining the confidentiality of assessment materials**
Putting restrictions in place on the number of resits a candidate can undertake, together with the expansion of our live item banks, supports the development of secure, valid and reliable assessments as well as helping maintain the confidentiality of the assessment materials.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all candidates taking Classic IESOL qualifications at Gatehouse Awards-approved centres, including resits taking place at the same centre and across different centres, as well as paper based and online examinations.

5. Process for Implementation

Step 1: Candidate Tracking

- Centres must internally record and track all candidate registrations accurately and implement the restriction at their end whenever possible. We recognise that this might be difficult for repeat registrations taking place across different centres.
- The process will be supported by the representative organisation (where applicable) by implementing a second level check prior to registering candidates on the GA candidate management system.
- GA's candidate management system will flag candidate names and dates of birth in the registration database to identify repeat bookings which might still take place within the restricted timeframe.
- Candidate records will be cross-checked at the point of registration and we reserve the right to cancel an existing registration if it contravenes this policy. Registration fees may be refunded if the repeated registrations outside of the permitted timescale did not originate from the same centre.

Step 2: Communication

Centres must inform all candidates of the resit restriction policy at the point of registration and again upon results release.

Step 3: Monitoring

Centre-level data will be monitored by the Quality Assurance and Administration teams to detect patterns of resits. Repeated attempts in contravention of the policy may trigger centre investigations or contribute to risk ratings.

6. Exceptions

Exceptional circumstances may be considered upon written request from the centre, supported by evidence, in line with the GA Candidate Access Policy. Any exceptions must be approved by the GA Assessment Manager.

7. Implementation

The policy is effective immediately and restrictions will be implemented based on any candidate registrations received from 1st June 2025.

8. Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if significant malpractice trends or operational challenges arise.

Effectiveness will be measured through a reduction in repeat candidate entries across high-risk centres.