

---

**Listserv Summary: Testing Services for Non-Native English Speakers**

---

**January 2014**

An inquiry was made in regards to institutional approaches to providing testing services specifically for non-native speakers of English, asking whether other institutions have options for special testing accommodations for these students.

**Summary of responses:**

There were thirteen responses to this inquiry. Out of these responses, only one institution officially allows accommodations for non-native English speakers. At this institution, faculty members send materials and a list of rules for the student to the International School, where the student is provided with a quiet room and a proctor. The most requested accommodation for ESOL students is completion time.

One response brought up the importance of paying attention while developing universal language for a policy so that it does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of national origin, and recommends stating that students who require additional testing arrangements can seek special permission directly from the professor which will be approved on a case by case basis.

Several responses indicated that while there is no official campus-wide policy, faculty members may allow this for their students.

Out of the thirteen responses, four directly cited that this is not possible at their institution because being a non-native English speaker is not a disability, and that accommodations are only given officially when a student has a documented disability.