

University of Cagliari  
UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE CENTRE



UNICA-CLA English Language Project

# HAND BOOK

FOR STUDENTS

Updated on 26/01/24

## Educational goals

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In compliance with the University's policies, aiming at the internationalisation of the university system and at higher levels of employability for its graduates, the **University Language Centre (CLA)** has been tasked with managing a significant project, which provides for the acquisition of the English language skills at B2 level of the CEFR<sup>1</sup> by all Bachelor's and single cycle Master's students at the University of Cagliari.

In order to achieve this ambitious goal, the students have the chance to improve their English competences by attending A2 and B1 online courses (created by CLA for this specific purpose), supported by expert tutors, when available. They will also be able to acquire higher-level skills by attending in-person courses and/or courses on Webex.

In its final stage, the project will also provide, for students enrolling in a Master's degree, thus already having B2 level proficiency, the attendance of specific courses designed to prepare them for international certifications at B2 level (or above).

## The project, in brief

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All students enrolling in the first year of all **Bachelor's degrees** and **single cycle Master's degrees**, except for the degrees in Foreign Languages, must take the English **placement** test. It is a computer-based test followed by a speaking session, except for the A2 level, organised by CLA (for further information, see pages 4 to 7).

The main goal of this Project is to support students to achieve the B2 level skills by the end of their Bachelor's degree or single cycle Master's degree, for the purpose of improving graduates' cultural standing and increasing their chances to enter the job market.

Students will be presented with a specific program, according to the level of proficiency achieved in the test.

For elementary levels, CLA will provide students with two online self-study courses: the first one, an A2 course for absolute beginners; the second one, a B1 course with the possibility of tutoring support for those who have achieved A2 proficiency. To confirm the assessment of B1 and B2 levels, it is required, aside from the computer-based test, to pass a speaking exam with a language expert.

Following the assessment, CLA will provide students with a certification of language proficiency in the form of an Open Badge (digital certificate), according to the level of proficiency achieved. The results achieved, with the integration between Bestr<sup>2</sup> platform and Esse3 UNICA portal, will allow the automatic accreditation of the CFU credits based on the English level achieved and the language activity present in each degree course.

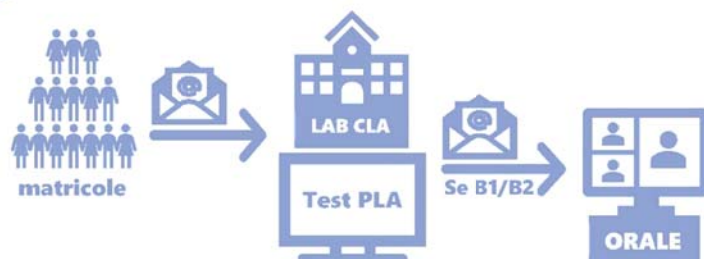
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<sup>1</sup> The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), sometimes referred to simply as *Framework* – is a descriptive system developed by the Council of Europe between 1989 and 1996 and employed to assess the skills achieved by students of European foreign languages, as well as to define the language teaching level in a wide variety of fields. The six reference levels (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) of the CEFR are employed throughout Europe and in other continents as parameters to give language teachers a framework of reference to prepare study materials and to assess language skills. For further information, see the dedicated page at the *link* and attachment n.1 of the Handbook.

<sup>2</sup> It is the digital platform of open badges to emphasise people's skills and to link them to the production industry and educational offer. For further details and information, see page 17.

## PROGETTO LINGUA INGLESE UnICA CLA

### PIAZZAMENTO (PLA)



Il **piazzamento (verifica iniziale)** riguarda la verifica di quale livello di competenza linguistica in lingua inglese abbia lo studente in ingresso, quando inizia la carriera. Per sua natura non è ripetibile – anche in caso di cambio di corso di studi e nuova carriera - e si conclude entro l'anno solare successivo a quello di **prima immatricolazione**.

Il piazzamento prevede lo svolgimento di una sessione di testing (A2, B1 e B2), a cui in altra data segue, per chi raggiunge i livelli B1 o B2 nei test al PC, un orale di conferma di tali livelli.

Sono rilasciati i **badge** (certificati elettronici) dei livelli A2, B1 e/o B2.

È possibile essere esonerati a seguito di: richiesta di riconoscimento di certificato internazionale o esame in precedente carriera; in caso di partecipazione all'evento "catch the badge" e conseguente rilascio del badge test; oppure dichiarandosi principianti (A1).

Riceverete via e-mail comunicazioni/convocazioni personali per ogni attività del Progetto.

Conclusa la verifica iniziale (piazzamento) ↓

## BADGE



### STRUMENTI DIDATTICI

Corsi online in autoapprendimento



Corsi di didattica frontale



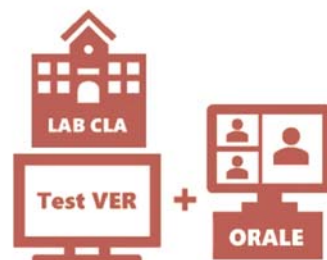
**Livelli QCER A1A2B1B2C1C2**  
Il Progetto prevede il raggiungimento del livello B2

*Il Quadro comune europeo di riferimento per la conoscenza delle lingue (QCER) è uno standard internazionale utile per descrivere le abilità linguistiche.*



**Centro Linguistico di Ateneo**

### Sessioni di verifica del livello (VER)



Le **sessioni di verifica del livello (A2, B1 o B2)** sono sessioni di esami (test al pc + orale) - aperte per l'intera carriera una volta **definito il piazzamento** - nel corso delle quali lo studente può far verificare la propria competenza a seguito dell'attività formativa svolta con gli strumenti messi a disposizione dal CLA o altri strumenti individuati altrove.

Il superamento delle verifiche (test + orale) sancisce il raggiungimento del livello. Ad ogni livello raggiunto corrisponde il rilascio di **badge** (certificato elettronico).

È possibile accedere solo alle verifiche del livello immediatamente superiore a quello posseduto al momento.

### Legenda



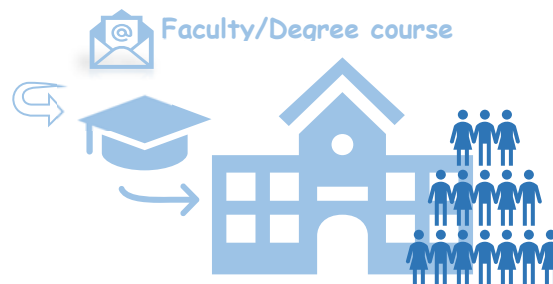
[inglese.unica@unica.it](mailto:inglese.unica@unica.it)

Figure 1- Scheme of the planned path for all first-year Bachelor's degree and single cycle Master's degree students (degrees in Languages excluded)

# PHASE 1: INITIAL LANGUAGE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

## Placement tests

The **University Language Centre (CLA)** will contact, ONLY via UniCa e-mail addresses, the students included in ESSE3 lists and enrolled in Year I of the Bachelor's degrees and single cycle Master's degrees of our University. They will take a computer-based placement test<sup>3</sup>, at one of CLA's multimedial labs in Cagliari and Monserrato, organised as follows:



The first 20 multiple-choice questions will be at A2 level.



Lab 58 – Humanities Campus "Sa Duchessa" – Main building  
Via Is Mirrionis 1 – Cagliari



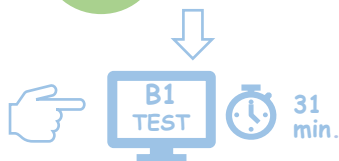
CLA Lab - Cittadella Universitaria di Monserrato (University Campus) - S.S.554 Km 4,500 – Room 10 (Asse 4 – 2nd Floor)



Students who **pass** the A2 test will be immediately admitted to the B1 level test\*.



Students who do **not** pass the A2 test will finish the test at this stage, getting access to the A2 online self-study course and to the A2 level skills assessment tests.



Students who **pass** the B1 test will be immediately admitted to the B2 level test\*.



Students who do **not** pass the B1 test will finish the test at this stage, getting access to the B1 online self-study course with the possibility of tutoring support and to the B1 level assessment tests.



Students who **pass** the B2 test will be admitted to an **oral test** to confirm the B2 level (to take at a later time)



Students who do **not** pass the B2 test will be admitted to an **oral test** to confirm the B1 level (to take at a later time)

\* It is a multiple-choice test that includes listening, lexical-grammatical questions, reading and comprehension, use of English.

<sup>3</sup> Educational programs of reference for each level are available for consultation in attachment (A2 – Attachment n.3; B1 – Attachment n.4; B2 – Attachment n.5).

Testing activities are designed to assess students' level of proficiency. Those who will prove to possess A1 and A2 levels will have to follow these recommendations:

- ❖ **A1** level students will attend the A2-level online self-study course;
- ❖ **A2** level students will get the English A2 Test Open Badge<sup>4</sup>. They will be directed by CLA and their respective Faculties to attending the B1-level online self-study course, and then they will be able to get the support of a graduate tutor for 40 out of the 80 expected hours (when possible);
- ❖ A1 and A2 level students will be contacted by CLA via e-mail at their UniCa addresses, to undergo UNICA-CLA Evaluation sessions (see pp. 14-15) for the next level.

#### **N.B.**

- Students will be exempted from taking the placement test if they are eligible for exemption, as indicated at page 8.

- Students who will make request can declare themselves as beginners (A1), skipping the placement test and getting access to the A2 online self-study course.

- Students who are not eligible for exemption and who will not attend the placement test sessions of their respective first-year courses will be automatically regarded as possessing A1 level proficiency, thus getting asked to follow the whole learning program. In any case, they will be able to present an English language test passed in a previous/current university career or an international certification among those recognised by the Centre, in order to get admitted to the intermediate steps according to the level of proficiency achieved.

Those who, during placement tests, will prove to have a level of proficiency equivalent to **B1** or **B2**, will get access to the **speaking session**, an additional assessment phase aimed at confirming the levels also from the point of view of oral production and interaction.

Current rules for placement are also valid for students who should get the recognition of a **partial exam** passed in a previous career; they will have to undergo a speaking session to confirm such level. Next paragraph, concerning speaking sessions, shows the limits and instructions applied.

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<sup>4</sup> Please refer to page 16 for a description of the CLA-adopted Open Badge digital certificate tool.

## Placement test's speaking sessions

Speaking sessions are aimed at confirming **B1** e **B2** levels also in oral production and interaction. Such levels are associated with the issue of a certification of language proficiency in the form of a digital Open Badge, which will match the resulting level at the end of the oral test (B1 or B2).

Students contacted via UniCa e-mail address have **one chance** to confirm the level achieved in the written test or in the partial exam passed in a previous career, **by the end of the following two speaking sessions**. In case they do not take the oral test in one of the two available sessions following the date of the computer-based test or the date of confirmation of the partial exam passed in a previous career, CLA will automatically assign them the lower **level of proficiency**, to guarantee their regular admission to the Project.

EXAMPLE: whoever has achieved the B1 level but has not confirmed it yet undergoing the speaking session before the deadline, will be considered as possessing A2 proficiency and thus will be directed to the activities aimed at strengthening the B1 level with subsequent assessment.

### B1 level speaking session



Students who pass the B1 level placement test will be subsequently contacted by CLA, via UniCa e-mail address, to take a 15-minute oral test with a language expert, to confirm the level achieved in the computer-based test.

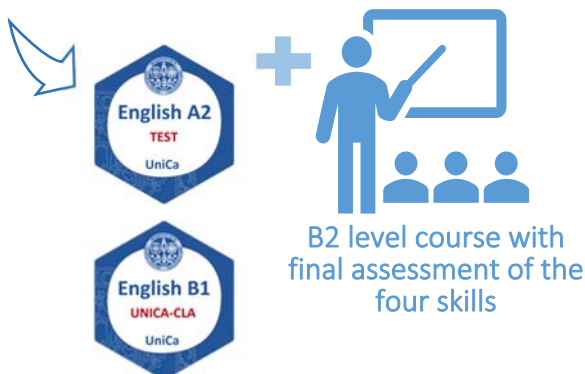
At the end of the oral test, the expert will assign a score on a scale from 1 to 20, resulting from the sum of the single marks assigned according to the following descriptors (1 to 4 points will be awarded for each descriptor):

1. Argumentation;
2. Lexical control and range;
3. Grammar accuracy;
4. Pronunciation;
5. Interaction and Communication.

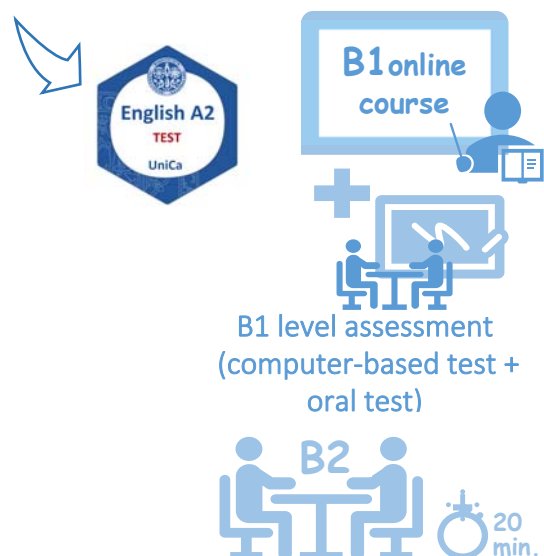
The pass mark is 12/20.



If students **pass** this B1 oral test, they will receive the English A2 Test and English B1 UNICA-CLA Open Badges, and they will be admitted to the in-person or online course.



If students **fail** the oral test, they will receive the English A2 Test Open Badge, getting access to the B1 online course with the possibility of tutoring support to fill the debt and undergo the full B1 level evaluation assessment.



## B2 level speaking session

Students who pass the B2 level placement test will be subsequently contacted by CLA, via UniCa e-mail address, to take a 20-minute oral test with a language expert, to confirm the level achieved in the computer-based test.

At the end of the oral test, the expert will assign a score on a scale from 1 to 20, resulting from the sum of the single marks assigned according to the following descriptors (1 to 4 points will be awarded for each descriptor):

6. Argumentation;
7. Lexical control and range;
8. Grammar accuracy;
9. Pronunciation;
10. Interaction and Communication.

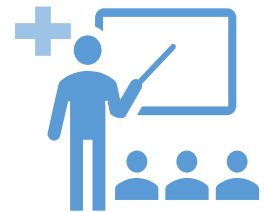
The pass mark is 12/20.



If students **pass** the B2 oral test, they will receive the English A2 Test, English B1 UNICA-CLA and English B2 Gold Open Badges, achieving the expected level for the Bachelor's degree/single cycle Master's degree and the Project's language goal.



If students **fail** the oral test, they will receive the English A2 Test and English B1 UNICA-CLA Open Badges, and they will be admitted to the B2 in-person or online course.



B2 level course with final assessment of the four skills