



TOEIC® Test Success Story
Université du Québec à Montréal

French-Canadian Business School Students Must Prove English-Language Proficiency to Obtain Degree

The School of Management Science at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM) has taken advantage of the TOEIC test since 2004, when it began requiring its students to demonstrate their English-language ability prior to graduation.

THE CHALLENGE

Although students in the program study in the French language, the school recognizes the importance of the English language in the business world. In 2002, Claude Felteau, the Vice Dean of the school, began a review of the undergraduate program. He concluded that intermediate-level English proficiency should be required for students to obtain their undergraduate degree in business administration or management science.

THE SOLUTION

Students are encouraged to take an English-proficiency test early in their course of studies. A TOEIC test score of 750 (combined Listening and Reading score) is mandatory in order to graduate; if less, students are obliged to take another English-language course. About 5 to 10 percent of the students do retake the test which the school offers several times a year. Students say they appreciate the fact that ETS Canada's online store makes it easy to register for the test.

A TOEIC test score on a CV or résumé adds credibility and distinction to those seeking entry to the professional world. Although other measurements are available, the school and the students like the multiple-choice, business-oriented content of the TOEIC test, which lets them compare their ability to use English in the workplace with thousands of other test-takers around the world. In Québec's cosmopolitan capital, Montréal, increased competition for the best jobs requires English proficiency. Thousands of major companies and multinationals, particularly those based in the neighboring U.S., recognize the fairness, validity and reliability of the TOEIC test.

THE RESULTS

In the past two years, more than 800 UQÀM students have taken the test. "The TOEIC test is practical for our students since it gives them a precise indicator of their level of ability in the English language," said Vice Dean Felteau. "The coming years will see a growing need for English-language proficiency in the workplace and the TOEIC test will help students who wish to improve their English skills. To date, we have received very positive feedback from the students."

Learn more about the TOEIC test at
www.ets.org/toEIC60.html.

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