PTE & IELTS Scam Protection Checklist

Check any school, agent or “certificate seller” in 10 minutes, before you pay anything.

Instant red flags: stop if you see any

☐ They offer a certificate, score or “database registration” without you sitting the test

☐ They guarantee a score or say you can't fail

☐ They offer leaked or “real exam” questions

☐ They offer someone to sit the test for you

☐ They want your Pearson or IELTS account password

☐ Payment only by crypto, gift cards or transfer to a personal account

☐ Contact only through WhatsApp or Telegram, with no address or company details

☐ Pressure: “only today”, “last slot”, “price rises tonight”

Verify a school before you enrol

☐ The company name and address are listed and can be found independently

☐ Teachers are named, with qualifications you can check

☐ Course content and prices are written down

☐ An invoice and receipt are offered for every payment

☐ A refund policy is published

☐ Reviews on independent platforms, not only on their own site

☐ The school tells you to book the test yourself on the official website

How real scores are checked

PTE scores live in your Pearson account and are sent to institutions directly from it. IELTS results are checked online using the Test Report Form number. A paper or PDF certificate on its own proves nothing, which is why bought certificates fail.

If you've already paid a scammer

- Stop paying. Scammers often ask for “one more fee”
- Save every message, link and receipt
- Report it to Pearson or IELTS through their official channels, and to your police and bank
- Report the profile or website on the platform where you found it

Ready for real feedback? Book a free class and level check with PTE Success Academy.

PTE Success Academy is an independent school, not affiliated with Pearson, IELTS or any government. Rules, fees and score requirements change: always confirm on pearsonpte.com and official government or university websites. We never sell certificates or guarantee scores.