

Improving English skills in the banking sector

Qatar National Bank

Qatar



Qatar National Bank, one of the leading banks in the Middle East, chose to use BULATS (Business Language Testing Service), from Cambridge Assessment English, as a placement test to put employees on language courses.

Established in 1964, Qatar National Bank has grown steadily to become one of the largest banks in the Middle East and North Africa region; it now operates a global network of offices, and has also topped the Bloomberg list of the world's strongest banks.

English skills are of vital importance in the international finance sector, and as a result, Qatar National Bank values these skills highly among its employees and was keen to improve their language skills.

To meet this objective, in 2011, Qatar National Bank decided to utilise BULATS as a placement test to ensure their employees were placed on suitable and appropriate-level language courses.

BULATS is a flexible online tool that assesses English language skills for business, industry and commerce.

It offers language testing linked to internationally accepted standards, and can be used to test all four language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. BULATS is specifically designed for use in a workplace context. Tasks and topics are based on typical workplace scenarios.

Qatar National Bank used BULATS as a placement test for 200 employees before they undertook their language course. These same employees were subsequently assessed with BULATS after completing their course in order to measure how much their English had improved.

Qatar National Bank also used BULATS as part of its employee recruitment and selection strategy.

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