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The UTEL is a standardized examination which measures the general English language proficiency of the undergraduates in Sri Lankan universities. It provides opportunities for the university students to obtain a certificate for their English language skills. The test is considered as a secure, global, authentic and customer-focused test which measures true to life ability to communicate in English. The main purpose of this research is to identify the effectiveness and sustainability of the University Test of English Language (UTEL) introduced by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOH) in collaboration with the Higher Education for the 21st Century Project (HETC), which is funded by the World Bank. This study is important for university academics since the findings of the research may provide a better prospect for them to align their ELT courses, materials as per the requirements of the UTEL. For the study a random sample from two state universities were selected and the sample includes those who have obtained average band score 3 and above 3. Apart from the questionnaire, interviews were also conducted to obtain data so as to increase and cross-validate the students' responses to the questionnaire. The findings of this investigation indicate that establishing national standards for proficiency in English language skills has facilitated the graduates to assess themselves to identify the improvements they need and obtain the recognition for their skills. Even though the percentage of the undergraduates who sit for test is insignificant, such standards and certification further enable graduates to access the best employments. The results and findings will enable the test administrators, educationists etc. in the field to comprehend students' attitudes towards the test and use the recommendations of the researcher to make the test more reliable and consistent.

Keywords: *UTEL, standard, sustainability, undergraduates, employability, test*