Postgraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies

Overview

The University of Auckland (UoA) sets standards for English Language proficiency for admission to the University for international applicants. All international applicants are required to provide satisfactory evidence of their proficiency in English.

This could be an acceptable English language test, such as IELTS or TOEFL, or previous academic study completed in English. The purpose of this document is to outline what will be accepted as satisfactory evidence for this requirement.

Note: Domestic applicants are not included.
Pathways for Meeting English Language Proficiency

1 International Students from Majority English Speaking Countries.................................3

2 English Proficiency Tests........................................................................................................3

3 Prior Study in English........................................................................................................4

3.1 Foundation English Programmes.........................................................................................4

3.2 Tertiary Study in the English Medium...............................................................................5

3.3 Qualifications taught in Offshore Campuses .................................................................6

3.4 Graduate Diplomas from New Zealand Universities and Polytechnic Institutions...7

4 Special Cases.........................................................................................................................7

4.1 Studies in English Language ............................................................................................7

4.2 Engineering Applicants for Postgraduate Certificate in Light Metals Reduction Technology.................................................................7

4.3 Teaching in English .........................................................................................................7

4.4 Law Applicants from Norway .........................................................................................7

4.5 The Occupational English Test......................................................................................7

5 English Language Waivers..................................................................................................8

5.1 English Language Waiver Conditions ..........................................................................8

5.2 Marginal TOEFL/IELTS .................................................................................................8

6 Postgraduate Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements .................10

Approved by Education Committee in June 2020 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2020, for commencement in Semester 1 2021 and onwards.
1  International Students from Majority English Speaking Countries

Passport holders of the countries listed below are considered to have satisfied English language proficiency requirements if they have successful tertiary study in the English medium:

- Canada
- Ireland
- Singapore
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

Please note that some Education and Social Work programmes may still require an IELTS or TOEFL iBT test to be submitted due to professional registration requirements.

If you have completed tertiary study in the English medium but you are not a passport holder of one of the countries listed above please refer to Section 3.2 for further information.

2  English Proficiency Tests

Validity Period - All test results are valid for two years from the date on the test certificate to the start of the UoA programme. Requirements must be met on one test certificate.

Exceptions - Some programmes have higher requirements; for these please refer to the degree specific requirements on page 10.

Minimum Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IELTS (Academic)</td>
<td>Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet-based TOEFL (iBT)</td>
<td>Overall score of 90 and a writing score of 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper-based TOEFL</td>
<td>Overall score of 68 and a writing score of 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1 Advanced (previously Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE))</td>
<td>Overall score of 176 and no bands below 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2 Proficiency (previously Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))</td>
<td>Overall score of 176 and no bands below 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic</td>
<td>Overall score of 58 and no PTE Communicative score below 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE)</td>
<td>ISE III with a pass in all 4 components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LanguageCert – International ESOL</td>
<td>C1 Expert (LRWS) with a high pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill OR C2 Mastery with a pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3 Prior Study in English

Validity Period – Prior study in English is valid for two years from the completion of study to the start of the UoA programme.

The validity period is five years for:

- Evidence of English language work experience;
- Or if you hold a passport from a “predominantly” English-speaking country1.

These will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at the time of application.

Completion of the following qualifications with the required English grade will meet our Postgraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements. Each of these English grades also has an assigned IELTS equivalency. Some of the programmes below only have IELTS equivalency for IELTS 6.5 (no band below 6.0). If you are applying for a programme with a higher IELTS requirement, you will need to sit one of the approved English proficiency tests on page 3.

Note: Some Education and Social Work programmes may still require an IELTS or TOEFL iBT test to be submitted due to professional registration requirements.

3.1 Foundation English Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation Programme</th>
<th>English grade required</th>
<th>IELTS equivalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Auckland Foundation Certificate in English for Academic Purposes (FCertEAP)</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Overall score of 7.0 and no bands below 6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Auckland English Pathway for Postgraduate Studies (EPPS)</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Overall score of 7.0 and no bands below 6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 American Samoa, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Fiji, Gibraltar, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, South Africa, The Gambia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Approved by Education Committee in June 2020 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2020, for commencement in Semester 1 2021 and onwards.
Auckland University of Technology Certificate in English for Academic Study | A overall, minimum A in Writing, all other grades B+ or higher | Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
---|---|---
Lincoln University Certificate in English for Academic Purposes | 70% | Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
University of Otago English for Postgraduate Academic Purposes (English for Otago) | C | Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
NCUK International Pre-Masters Year English for Academic Purposes module (EAP) | A overall with no bands below B | Overall score of 7.0 and no bands below 6.5
| B overall with no bands below C | Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0

### 3.2 Tertiary Study in the English Medium

For prior tertiary study, students are required to meet one of the following requirements:

**Sub-doctoral**

- A bachelor degree (minimum 3 years duration); OR
- A postgraduate qualification (minimum of one year duration)

**Doctoral**

- A bachelor degree (minimum three years duration); OR
- A postgraduate qualification (minimum one year duration) AND a bachelor degree (minimum 3 years duration), with no greater than two years between the completion of the bachelor degree and the beginning of the postgraduate study; OR
- A postgraduate qualification (minimum 2 years duration)

The qualification must be from a university, or polytechnic institution recognised by UK NARIC\(^2\) or NOOSR\(^3\) and the degree must be comparable to a New Zealand university, or polytechnic degree\(^4\).

This is valid for the following countries and territories:

- Australia
- Barbados
- Botswana

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\(^2\) National Recognition Information Centre - UK

\(^3\) National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition – Australia

\(^4\) At the request of the Board of Graduate Studies, doctoral applicants may be required to supply further evidence of their English language proficiency.

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• Canada (if the degree has been taught in English)
• Cayman Islands
• Cyprus (if the degree has been taught in English)
• Fiji
• Ghana
• Guyana
• Hong Kong (if the degree has been taught in English)
• India (if degree has been taught in English, and the awarding institution is on this list)
• Ireland
• Jamaica
• Kenya
• Lesotho
• Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
• Malta
• Mauritius
• Nigeria
• New Zealand
• Papua New Guinea
• Philippines
• St Vincent and the Grenadines
• Samoa
• Sierra Leone
• Singapore
• South Africa (if the degree has been taught in English)
• Sri Lanka (if the degree has been taught in English)
• Sweden
• Tanzania
• The Netherlands
• Uganda (if the degree has been taught in English)
• UK
• USA
• Zambia
• Zimbabwe

Also:

• University of the South Pacific: all campuses
• University of the West Indies: all campuses

3.3 Qualifications taught in Offshore Campuses

Some universities offer qualifications from their offshore campuses in multiple locations around the world. Successful completion of qualifications at bachelor degree level or higher from these campuses is deemed acceptable for English Language equivalency for admission to postgraduate studies⁵.

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⁵ At the request of the Board of Graduate Studies, doctoral applicants may be required to supply further evidence of their English language proficiency.

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3.4 Graduate Diplomas from New Zealand Universities and Polytechnic Institutions

Students must have completed a one-year full-time Graduate Diploma from a New Zealand University, or Polytechnic Institution. Please note that this does not meet the English language requirement for Doctoral programmes.

4 Special Cases

4.1 Studies in English Language

Completion of a postgraduate qualification at least one year in duration and in the subject of English language, from a university recognised by UK NARIC\(^6\) or NOOSR\(^7\). Note: The same validity period which is stated in Section 3 also applies here.

4.2 Engineering Applicants for the Postgraduate Certificate in Light Metals Reduction Technology

Completion of a bachelor’s degree or higher within the last 5 years in the English medium with evidence provided;

OR,

At least 3 years work experience in an English-speaking country or workplace where English is the primary language. In this instance a written testimonial will need to be provided by the employer as evidence of the applicant’s English proficiency.

4.3 Teaching in English

Experience teaching at a tertiary level in the English medium, for two years or more, in a recognised university where English is the language of instruction. Please refer to the list of acceptable countries in Section 3.2. Note: The same validity period which is stated in Section 3 also applies here.

4.4 Law Applicants from Norway

Students from Norway who are applying for postgraduate programmes in law will qualify for admission and English equivalency provided they have obtained a pass (minimum 4) in Vitnemal English.

4.5 The Occupational English Test

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\(^6\) National Recognition Information Centre - UK
\(^7\) National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition – Australia

Approved by Education Committee in June 2020 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2020, for commencement in Semester 1 2021 and onwards.
The Occupational English Test (OET) will be accepted for all Faculty of Medical and Health Science programmes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OET Score</th>
<th>IELTS Equivalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B (or 400 out of 500)</td>
<td>Overall score of 7.5 and no bands below 7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+ (or 300 out of 500)</td>
<td>Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The same validity period which is stated in Section 2 also applies here.

5 English Language Waivers

Students who have not met English proficiency through the above standards may, in some circumstances, be granted a waiver. An applicant’s eligibility for a waiver to sub-doctoral programmes will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at the time of application by Applications and Admissions and may require further supporting evidence. All applicants who are awarded a waiver will be required to sit a Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment (DELNA) once enrolled in their course of study no later than two weeks after the start of their first semester. Any recommended enrichment/support must be undertaken. For Doctoral applicants seeking a waiver, a recommendation must be submitted by the Academic Head of the relevant academic unit to the Doctoral Admissions team. All cases will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

5.1 English Language Waiver Conditions

For a waiver to be considered, an applicant needs a combination of at least two of the following:

- Completion of a postgraduate qualification (at least one year in duration), or a Bachelor degree from a University, or Polytechnic Institution, from one of the countries listed in Section 3.2. This prior study will have been completed more than 5 years before the start of your study at UoA.
- Completion of a Bachelor degree from a University, or Polytechnic Institution from a country not listed in Section 3.2. The medium of instruction during this study must have been English and must not have been completed more than 2 years before the beginning of study at UoA.
- Published research in English where you were the lead researcher and presented in English at conference(s).
- Evidence of extensive work experience in English.

5.2 Marginal Test Scores

Students who have not achieved the required scores in an IELTS, TOEFL or PTE Academic test may be considered for an English Language Waiver. To be considered for a marginal test score waiver a student must satisfy at least one of the conditions listed in Section 5.1, as well as the score requirement listed below.
IELTS: Where the student has submitted an overall IELTS result which is lower than the minimum requirement by 0.5-1.0 point, but the written and reading scores meet the minimum. That is, an IELTS overall speaking or listening score may be lower by 0.5-1.0 point but an IELTS with a low writing or reading score will not be considered.

TOEFL: Where the student has submitted an overall TOEFL score (internet- or paper-based test) which is lower than the minimum requirement by up to 2 points, but the written English score meets or exceeds the minimum.

PTE: Where the student has submitted an overall PTE result which is lower than the minimum requirement by up to 8 points, but the communicative score meets the minimum.
### Postgraduate Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate Programmes</th>
<th>IELTS Overall score</th>
<th>TOEFL Internet-based Overall score</th>
<th>TOEFL Internet-based Writing score</th>
<th>TOEFL Paper-based Overall score</th>
<th>TOEFL Paper-based Writing score</th>
<th>CAE or CPE Overall score</th>
<th>IELTS Minimum Band score (from 2017) Posting</th>
<th>FCertEAP Overall score</th>
<th>PTE Academic Minimum Communicative Skills score</th>
<th>PTE Academic Overall score</th>
<th>MELAB Minimum Section score</th>
<th>MELAB Overall score</th>
<th>AEMG AEAP DEP Final Exam %</th>
<th>AEAP DEP Final Exam %</th>
<th>AEAP DEP Final Exam %</th>
<th>AEAP DEP Final Exam %</th>
<th>AEAP DEP Final Exam %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts (Honours)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Science (Honours)</td>
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<td>Postgraduate programmes in Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Biomedical Science</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Commerce</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Dance Studies</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Fine Arts</td>
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<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Health Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Advanced Interpreting</td>
<td>Please refer to the University of Auckland Calendar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Law</td>
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<td>185</td>
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<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Music</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Planning</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Property</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Public Health</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Science</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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Approved by Education Committee in June 2020 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2020, for commencement in Semester 1 2021 and onwards.
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</table>

* Due to professional registration requirements, only IELTS and TOEFL Internet-based test (iBT) can be accepted for this programme. Please note that if the English requirement is met via TOEFL iBT, you will also need to meet the University of Auckland English Language requirement with an overall score of 90 and no bands below 21.

** At the request of the Board of Graduate Studies, doctoral applicants may be required to supply further evidence of their English language proficiency.