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 take the form of an acceptable English language test such as IELTS or TOEFL. Please note that domestic applicants are not included.
Pathways for Meeting English Language Proficiency

1 International Students from Majority English Speaking Countries

2 English Proficiency Tests

3 Prior Study in English

3.1 Foundation English Programmes

3.2 Tertiary Study in the English Medium

3.3 Qualifications taught in Offshore Campuses

3.4 Graduate Diplomas from New Zealand Universities and Polytechnic Institutions

4 Special Cases

4.1 Studies in English Language

4.2 Teaching in English

4.3 Law applicants from Norway

4.4 The Occupational English Test

5 English Language Waivers

5.1 Marginal TOEFL/IELTS

5.2 Other

6 Postgraduate Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements

Approved by Education Committee in July 2019 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2019, for commencement in Semester 1 2020 and onwards.
1 **International Students from Majority English Speaking Countries**

Passport holders of the countries listed below will be deemed 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 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 the sections below 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 UoA programme commencement. The requirements must be met within one test certificate.

**Exceptions** - some programmes have higher requirements; for these please refer to the degree specific requirements on page 9.

**Minimum Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</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><strong>C1 Advanced (previously Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE))</strong></td>
<td>Overall score of 176 and no bands below 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C2 Proficiency (previously Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))</strong></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>
</tbody>
</table>

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LanguageCert – International ESOL

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

3 Prior Study in English

Validity Period – Prior study in English is valid for two years from the completion of study to UoA programme commencement. With evidence of residence in New Zealand or another predominately English-speaking country¹, or English language work experience the validity period is 5 years. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at the time of application.

The following qualifications/scores are acceptable IELTS equivalencies. 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.

Please note that some Education and Social Work programmes may still require an IELTS 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>
<tr>
<td>Auckland University of Technology Certificate in English for Academic Study</td>
<td>A overall, minimum A in Writing, all other grades B+ or higher</td>
<td>Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln University Certificate in English for Academic Purposes</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Otago English for Postgraduate Academic Purposes (English for Otago)</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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3.2 Tertiary Study in the English Medium

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 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
- 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 awarding institution is on this list)\(^{\text{i}}\)
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lethoso
- Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Malta
- Mauritius

\(^{\text{i}}\) 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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\(^2\) 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
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 West Indies: all campuses

3.3 Qualifications taught in Offshore Campuses

Some universities are offering qualifications from their offshore campuses in a number of locations throughout 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 studies\(^5\).

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.

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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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4  **Special Cases**

4.1  **Studies in English Language**

Completion of a postgraduate qualification of at least one year in duration, in the subject of English language from a university recognised by UK NARIC\(^6\) or NOOSR\(^7\) Please note that the durations of validity for section 3 apply here.

4.2  **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. Please note that the durations of validity for section 3 apply here.

4.3  **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.

4.4  **The Occupational English Test**

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>

Please note that the duration of validity for Section 2 applies here.

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

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5 English Language Waivers

Students who have not met English proficiency through the above standards may in some circumstances be granted a waiver8. Applicants to sub-doctoral programmes will be assessed by Applications and Admissions on a case-by-case basis, at the time of application. All applicants for whom a waiver is granted will be required to sit a Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment (DELNA) within two weeks of commencement of study, and to undertake any recommended enrichment/support. For Doctoral applications, a recommendation must be submitted by the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of the relevant faculty for approval by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic). All cases will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Circumstances under which an applicant may be considered for a waiver include the following:

5.1 Marginal TOEFL/IELTS

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 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 a TOEFL (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.

5.2 Other

A combination of at least two of the following factors:

- A postgraduate qualification (at least one year in duration) or bachelor degree from a university, or polytechnic institution located in one of the countries listed in section 3.2, and completed more than 5 years prior to the commencement of study at UoA
- Current GRE or GMAT score
- Medium of instruction for bachelor degree is English
- Published research in English and presented in English at conference(s)
- Evidence of extensive work experience in the English language

8 Waiver requests will not be considered for doctoral applicants unless an accepted English language test has been undertaken, usually within the last 2 years

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### 6 Postgraduate Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate Programmes</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
<th>TOEFL</th>
<th>CAE or CPE</th>
<th>FCertEAP</th>
<th>PTE Academic</th>
<th>MELAB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall score</td>
<td>Minimum band score</td>
<td>Overall score</td>
<td>Writing score</td>
<td>Overall score</td>
<td>Minimum band score</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science (Honours)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Architecture</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Arts</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Biomedical Science</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Dance Studies</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Education</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Engineering</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Fine Arts</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Health Sciences</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Health Leadership</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Advanced Interpreting</td>
<td>Please refer to University of Auckland Calendar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Law</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Music</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Nursing</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Optometry</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Planning</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Property</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Public Health</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Science</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Audiology</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Health Practice</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters of Business Administration</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Health Sciences (Nutrition and Dietetics)</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Social Work (Professional)*</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate programmes in Theology</th>
<th>6.5</th>
<th>6.0</th>
<th>90</th>
<th>21</th>
<th>68</th>
<th>21</th>
<th>176</th>
<th>169</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>58</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>85</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate programmes in Translation Studies</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Professional Studies (Translation)</td>
<td>Please refer to University of Auckland Calendar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral programmes**</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>
<td>B-</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Due to professional registration requirements, only IELTS can be accepted for these programmes

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