

2019 Undergraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies

Overview

The University of Auckland 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 New Zealand and Australian citizens are not included as they are domestic students.

International students entering the University on the basis of NCEA, CIE or IB taken in New Zealand, must meet the standard literacy requirements for admission; refer to the NCEA, CIE and IB requirements on the University of Auckland website. IELTS and TOEFL are not replacements for these literacy requirements. International students entering the University on the basis of CIE or IB taken outside of New Zealand may meet the standard literacy requirement through an alternative approved English test as outlined below.

Minimum English Language Proficiency Requirements

All test results are valid for two years from the date on the test certificate. The requirements must be met within the one test certificate. Please note that some programmes have higher requirements, for these please refer to the degree specific requirements on [page 13](#).

IELTS (Academic)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Internet-based TOEFL(iBT)	Overall score of 80 and a written score of 21
Paper-based TOEFL	Overall score of 550 and an Essay (TWE) of 4.5
Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE)	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
Foundation Certificate in English for Academic Purposes (FCertEAP)	Grade of C-
Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic	Overall score of 50 and no PTE Communicative
Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)	80

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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 completed a senior secondary school qualification with successful study in an English rich subject¹, or successful tertiary study in the English medium:

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

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 or senior secondary 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.

Other International Students

The following qualifications/scores are acceptable IELTS equivalencies. Some of the programmes below are not sufficient for meeting the English language requirements for any programme that requires an IELTS 7.0 (no band below 7.0). Some of the programmes below only have IELTS equivalency for IELTS 6.0 (no band below 5.5). If you are applying for a programme with a higher IELTS requirement you will need to sit one of the approved English proficiency tests included in the [table on page 1](#).

All qualifications and scores are valid for two years from the date the study was completed unless specified. Qualifications and scores must be valid up to the commencement of study at UoA.

¹ Biology, Classical Studies, Economics, English Language, English Literature, History, History of Art, Geography

1 Foundation Studies

1.1 Foundation Certificates and Years

Foundation Certificate/Year (completed and awarded)	English grade required	IELTS equivalence
ACG Certificate in Foundation Studies ²	B	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Taylor's Auckland Foundation Year ³	70%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Australian Group of 8 University Foundation Programmes (one year programmes only, including those from recognised partner institutions)	70% or B in Academic English	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	75% or B+ in Academic English	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
New Zealand University Foundation Programmes (one year programmes only)	B	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	B+	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0

1.2 Foundation English Programmes

Foundation Programme	English grade required	IELTS equivalence
University of Auckland Foundation Certificate in English for Academic Purposes (FCertEAP)	A-	Overall score of 7.0 and no bands below 6.5
	B-	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	C-	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
University of Auckland English Pathway for Undergraduate Studies (EPUS)	B-	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	C-	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
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
	B overall, minimum B in Writing, all other grades C+ or higher	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Lincoln University Certificate in English for Academic Purposes	70%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	65%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
University of Otago English for Academic Purposes	C	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	C	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

² Students who enter the University with lower than IELTS 6.5 overall with no band below 6.0 or English minimum grade B+ from ACG will be required to study and pass an academic English language course during their first year of study. This course will be included as part of the programme of study

³ Students who enter the University with lower than IELTS 6.5 overall with no band below 6.0 or English minimum grade 75% from Taylor's will be required to study and pass an academic English language course during their first year of study. This course will be included as part of the programme of study

2 International Secondary Qualifications

Applicants whose study meets the requirements below but was undertaken more than two years before the start date of the programme at UoA may meet English proficiency requirements if they can provide evidence of further study in the English medium.

In the case of exchange and study abroad (COPOS/COPEX) applicants who have successfully completed one of the International Secondary Qualifications below (who are not applying for degrees at the University of Auckland), the two year validity period will not apply.

2.1 General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCE A-Level)

GCE A-Level⁴, or any qualification recognised by UK NARIC⁵ as being equivalent to GCE A-Levels, which is fully taught/examined in English. These include:

- Cambridge International Advanced Level

GCE A Level subject	Grade	IELTS equivalence
Biology	E	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Business Studies		
Classical Studies		
Economics		
English First Language		
English Literature	C	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
General Paper		
General Studies		
Geography		
History		

For qualifications recognised as being equivalent to GCE A-Level, the decision is made on a case-by-case basis unless specifically mentioned in "[3 Country Specific Qualifications](#)".

⁴ Must be endorsed by CIE, OCR, Edexcel, AQA or other UK authority (independent and school-assessed O-levels are not sufficient).

⁵ National Recognition Information Centre - UK

2.2 General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-Level)

GCE AS-Level⁶, or any qualification recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to GCE AS-Levels, which is fully taught/examined in English including:

- Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary Level

GCE AS Level (English Language, or English Literature)	IELTS
C	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
E	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

For qualifications recognised as being equivalent to GCE AS-Level, the decision is made on a case-by-case basis unless specifically mentioned in "[3 Country Specific Qualifications](#)".

2.3 General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

GCSE⁷, or any qualification recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to GCSE, which is fully taught/examined in English including:

- International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)
- Cambridge GCE Ordinary Level (O-Level)

GCSE (English Language, or English Literature)	IELTS
B	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
C	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

For qualifications recognised as being equivalent to GCSE, the decision is made on a case-by-case basis unless specifically mentioned in "[3 Country Specific Qualifications](#)".

⁶ Must be endorsed by CIE, OCR, Edexcel, AQA or other UK authority (independent and school-assessed O-levels are not sufficient).

⁷Must be endorsed by CIE, OCR, Edexcel, AQA or other UK authority (independent and school-assessed O-levels are not sufficient).

2.4 Singapore-Cambridge GCE⁸

Recommended English Proficiency requirement deemed equivalent to IELTS overall 6.0, with no bands below 5.5:

Singapore-Cambridge Subject	H2 Level	H1 Level
English Language and Linguistics	E	-
Literature in English	E	C
General Paper	-	C
Knowledge and Enquiry	E	-
History	E	-
Economics	E	-
Principles of Accounting	E	-
Management of Business	E	-
Geography	E	-
Biology	E	-

Recommended English Proficiency requirement deemed equivalent to IELTS overall 6.5, with no bands below 6.0:

Singapore-Cambridge Subject	H2 Level	H1 Level
English Language and Linguistics	C	-
Literature in English	C	B
General Paper	-	B
Knowledge and Enquiry	C	-
History	C	-
Economics	C	-
Principles of Accounting	C	-
Management of Business	C	-
Geography	C	-
Biology	C	-

For applicants who undertake military service the validity period is three years after the date the test is taken.

⁸Must undertake Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment (DELNA) screening and any stipulated follow-up action within 6 months of enrolment at the University of Auckland.

2.5 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma

Level	English Subject	English grade required	IELTS equivalence
Higher level	English A: Literature, or Language and Literature	5	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		4	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	English Language B	6	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		5	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Standard level	English A: Literature, or Language and Literature	6	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		5	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

3 Country Specific Qualifications

These academic qualifications and required results are accepted as meeting the minimum English language requirement for entry to the University. These are generally not accepted for programmes with higher IELTS requirements (unless stated) or for those programmes where IELTS is required to meet professional registration requirements. Please refer to the degree specific requirements on [page 13](#) for this information.

Country	Qualification	Grade	IELTS equivalent
Australia	Grade 12 English-intensive subject	50%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Canada	Grade 12 English-intensive subject	50%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Denmark	Studentereksamen English A	6	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	Studentereksamen English B	9	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Fiji	Fiji Year 13 Certificate Examination (Form 7) English-intensive subject	60%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Finland	Ylioppilastutkinoto or Studentexamen, English Language	5 (0-7 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	Upper Secondary School Certificate English A or English A Language	8 (4-10 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
France	Option Internationale du Baccalauréat (American and British)	12	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

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Germany	Abitur English Language	3 (1-6 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	Abitur English Language	10 (1-15 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	DAAD test	B2 in all three sections	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) English	Level 4	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
India	Year 12 Indian School Certificate (ISC) or All-India Senior School Certificate (AISSCE) English	70%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
		75%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
Malaysia	STPM English	C	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Malaysia	SPM English 1119 (English as a First Language)	C	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
New Zealand	New Zealand Certificate in English Language Level 4 (Academic)	Successful completion	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	New Zealand Certificate in English Language Level 5 (Academic)	Successful completion	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	Refer to Study within New Zealand (section 5) for other NZ qualifications		Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Norway	Vitnemal English Language	4 (1-6 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Samoa	National University of Samoa Foundation Certificate HEN004 Foundation English	C1 (60-64%)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Singapore	National University of Singapore (NUS) High School Diploma	Successful completion	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	Three-year full-time diploma from: Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic, or Republic Polytechnic	Successful completion.	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Sweden	Avgangsbetyg or Slutbetyg English	VG or 4	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
South Africa	National Senior Certificate/Senior Certificate/Matriculation English	5 or C	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
South Pacific countries	South Pacific Form Seven Certificate English	B	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

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The Netherlands	Vorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs (VWO) (Gymnasium A/B and Atheneum A/B) Diplomas (university preparatory education) English Language	7 (0-10 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Tonga	Tonga National Form Seven Certificate English	B	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
USA	Recognized two-year Associate degree	Successful completion	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	High School Diploma	Successful completion (minimum 2 years of attendance)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	SAT Reasoning Test Evidence-based Reading & Writing	600	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
<i>English-intensive Subjects (see Australia, Canada, Fiji)</i>	<i>Biology, Classical Studies, Economics, English Language, English Literature, History, History of Art, Geography</i>		

4 University Study in the English Medium

Students are required to have studied a minimum of one year of full time study at a university recognised by UK NARIC⁹ or NOOSR¹⁰ and the degree must be comparable to a New Zealand university degree. The study must have been completed no more than two years before the commencement of the programme at UoA. 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)
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Malta
- Mauritius

⁹ National Recognition Information Centre - UK

¹⁰ National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition – Australia

- Nigeria
- New Zealand - refer to "*5 Study within New Zealand*" for details
- 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.

Note: Some of the qualifications in sections 3 and 4 above are offered in a number of locations in the world, and are accepted regardless of location.

5 Study within New Zealand

Students who have successfully completed a minimum one year full-time bachelor degree level study at a University or Polytechnic in New Zealand will be considered to have English proficiency.

Students will be considered to have English proficiency who have completed a diploma of at least two years duration at a tertiary education provider in New Zealand, accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and which meets admission requirements to the University, or from one of the institutions listed below (which are accredited to deliver courses to level 7 by NZQA). The student must have gained a minimum B-grade average over the last year of their diploma.

- Community Support Services Industry Training Organisation
- Public Training Sector Organisation

English grades from Foundation programmes of other institutions are not acceptable as alternatives to IELTS/TOEFL unless specifically stated in [section 1.1](#).

International students entering the University on the basis of NCEA or CIE (NZ) must meet the standard literacy requirements for admission; refer to the NCEA and CIE (NZ) requirements. IELTS and TOEFL are not replacements for these literacy requirements.

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6 Study Abroad and Exchange

The requirements in this section apply only to exchange and study abroad students who are not applying for degrees at the University of Auckland.

6.1 General English Proficiency Test (GEPT)

The High/Intermediate level of the GEPT, or above. All four components must be passed and a Certificate of General English Proficiency awarded.

6.2 Letter of Recommendation

A letter of recommendation from a professor at their home university, from one of the countries below, stating that the applicant has sufficient proficiency in English to cope with English medium tertiary study. This letter must be based on the applicant's study of English as a Second Language or study in English medium. The countries are:

- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- Norway
- Sweden
- The Netherlands

7 Special Cases

7.1 The Occupational English Test

The Occupational English Test (OET) will be accepted for all Faculty of Medical and Health Science programmes. A grade of C will be considered equivalent to an IELTS score of 6.0 (no band below 5.5).

8 Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements

	IELTS		TOEFL				CAE or CPE		FCertEAP	PTE Academic		MELAB
			Internet-based		Paper-based							
Undergraduate Programmes	Overall score	Minimum band score	Overall score	Writing score	Overall score	Total Written Essay (TWE)	Overall score	Minimum band score	Overall score	Overall Score	Minimum communicative skills score	Overall score
Bachelor of Architectural Studies	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Arts	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Commerce	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Dance Studies	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Education (Teaching)*	7.0	7.0	N/A									
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Bachelor of Fine Arts	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Global Studies	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Bachelor of Health Sciences	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)	7.5	7.0	106	24	625	5.0	191	185	N/A	73	65	92
Bachelor of Laws (Part I)	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Laws (Part II)	7.0	6.5	100	24	600	5.0	185	176	A-	65	58	90
Bachelor of Music	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Nursing	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Bachelor of Optometry	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Bachelor of Pharmacy	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Bachelor of Sport, Health and Physical Education	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours)	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Property	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Science	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Bachelor of Social Work*	7.0	7.0	N/A									
Conjoint Degrees	6.0	5.5	80	21	550	4.5	169	162	C-	50	42	80
Engineering, Health Sciences and Nursing Conjoint Degrees	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Graduate Diplomas	As per the related undergraduate degree except for those noted below:											
Graduate Diplomas in Arts and Commerce	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Graduate Diplomas in Teaching*	7.0	7.0	N/A									

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

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