

Undergraduate 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 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.

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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 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.

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 16](#).

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
C1 Advanced (previously - Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE))	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
C2 Proficiency (previously - Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162

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

Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic	Overall score of 50 and no PTE Communicative score below 42
Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)	80
Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE)	ISE II with distinction in all 4 components

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 country², further study in English, or English language work experience, the validity period is five 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 6.0 (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 in [Section 2](#).

Please note that the programmes below are not sufficient for meeting the English language requirements for any programme that requires an IELTS 7.5 (no band below 7.0) or IELTS 7.0 (no band below 7.0).

3.1 Foundation Studies

3.1.1 Foundation Certificates and Years

Foundation Certificate/Year (completed and awarded)	English grade required	IELTS equivalence
ACG - UoA Certificate in Foundation Studies ³	B+	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	B	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Taylor's - Auckland Foundation Year ⁴	75%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

Foundation Certificate/Year (completed and awarded)	English grade required	IELTS equivalence
	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)	75% or B+ in Academic English	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	70% or B in Academic English	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
New Zealand University Foundation Programmes (one year programmes only)	B+ (or equivalent)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	B (or equivalent)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

3.1.2 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 Undergraduate Academic Purposes (English for Otago)	C	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

3.2 International Secondary Qualifications

Exchange and study abroad (COPOS/COPEX) applicants who do not also have an application to a degree programme at UoA, and who have successfully completed one of the international secondary qualifications below will not be subject to the two-year validity period.

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

GCE A-Level⁵, or any qualification recognised by UK NARIC⁶ as being equivalent to GCE A-Levels, which is fully taught/examined in English.

GCE A Level English Intensive Subject	IELTS Equivalence
E	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
C	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0

English intensive subjects include; Biology, Business Studies, Classical Studies, Economics, English First Language, English Literature, 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 "[3.3 Country Specific Qualifications](#)".

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

GCE AS-Level⁷, or any qualification recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to GCE AS-Levels, which is fully taught/examined in English.

GCE AS Level (English Language, or English Literature)	IELTS Equivalence
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 "[3.3 Country Specific Qualifications](#)".

3.2.3 General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

GCSE⁸, or any qualification recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to GCSE, which is fully taught/examined in English.

⁵ Must be endorsed by CIE, OCR, Edexcel, AQA or other UK authority (independent and school-assessed GCE A-levels are not sufficient).

⁶ National Recognition Information Centre - UK

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

⁸ Must be endorsed by CIE, OCR, Edexcel, AQA or other UK authority (independent and school-assessed GCSE-levels are not sufficient).

GCSE (English Language, or English Literature)	IELTS Equivalence
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 “[3.3 Country Specific Qualifications](#)”.

3.2.4 Singapore-Cambridge GCE⁹

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	-

⁹Must undertake Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment (DELNA) screening and any stipulated follow-up action within 6 months of enrolment at the University of Auckland.

3.2.5 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

3.3 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 16](#) for this information.

Country	Qualification	Grade	IELTS Equivalence
Australia	Grade 12 English-intensive subject	60%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		50%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Canada	Grade 12 English-intensive subject	60%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		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	70%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		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

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Country	Qualification	Grade	IELTS Equivalence
	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
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	75%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		70%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Malaysia	STPM English	C	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		D	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	SPM English 1119 (English as a First Language)	B	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		C	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
New Zealand	New Zealand Certificate in English Language Level 5 (Academic)	Successful completion	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	New Zealand Certificate in English Language Level 4 (Academic)	Successful completion	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	Refer to Study within New Zealand (page 13) 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

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Country	Qualification	Grade	IELTS Equivalence
	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	Högskoleförberedande examen English 7	C	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	Excellence	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		Merit	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
The Netherlands	Voorbereidend 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	Merit	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
USA	Recognized two-year Associate degree	Successful completion	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	High School Diploma	Successful completion (minimum 2 years of attendance)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	ACT ELA Score	25	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	SAT Reasoning Test Evidence-based Reading & Writing	550	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>		

3.4 Tertiary Study in the English Medium

Students are required to have successfully completed a minimum of one year of full time study at a university or polytechnic institution recognised by UK NARIC¹⁰ or NOOSR¹¹ and the degree must be comparable to a New Zealand Bachelor 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)
- India (if degree has been taught in English, and awarding institution is on this [list](#))
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- New Zealand - refer to "3.5 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:

¹⁰ National Recognition Information Centre - UK

¹¹ National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition – Australia

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

Note: Some of the qualifications in sections 3.3 and 3.4 above are offered in a number of locations in the world, and are accepted regardless of location.

3.5 Study within New Zealand

Students will be considered proficient in English if they meet one of the two following requirements:

1. Successfully completed a minimum of one year full-time bachelor degree level study at a University or Polytechnic in New Zealand; OR
2. Completed a diploma accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) AND:
 - The Diploma is two years in duration
 - The Diploma is in an academic subject
 - A minimum B grade average is achieved over the last year

4 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.

4.1 Tertiary Study in the English Medium

Prior enrolment in Bachelor degree level study (must be NZ comparable), or above at a University or Polytechnic Institution from a country listed in [section 3.4](#).

4.2 Certificat de Competences en Langues de l'Enseignement Superieur (CLES) - in English

Successful completion and award of the CLES at level 2.

4.3 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.

4.4 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 tertiary study in the English medium. This letter must be based on the applicant's study of English as a Second Language or study in the English medium. The countries are:

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

5 Special Cases

5.1 The Occupational English Test

The Occupational English Test (OET) will be accepted for all Faculty of Medical and Health Science programmes.

OET Score	IELTS Equivalence
B (or 400 out of 500)	Overall score of 7.5 and no bands below 7.0
C+ (or 300 out of 500)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
C (or 200 out of 500)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

Please note that the duration of validity for [section 2](#) applies here.

6 English Language Waivers

Students who have not met English proficiency through the above standards may in some circumstances be granted a waiver. Applicants 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. Circumstances under which an applicant may be considered for a waiver include the following:

6.1 Marginal Test Scores

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 (paper based) which is lower than the minimum requirement by up to 5 points, or a TOEFL (internet based) 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.

6.2 Other

A combination of at least two of the following factors:

- One year of successful full time study toward a Bachelor degree from a University, or Polytechnic Institution located in one of the countries listed in [Section 3.4](#), and completed more than 5 years prior to the commencement of study at UoA
- Medium of instruction for Bachelors degree is English
- Published research in English and presented in English at conference(s)
- Evidence of extensive work experience in English

7 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 Advanced Science (Honours)	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
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 Design (subject to CUAP approval)	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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