



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

NEW ZEALAND

# Undergraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies

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## Overview

The University of Waikato 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.

The purpose of this document is to outline what will be accepted as satisfactory evidence for this requirement. Please note that domestic applicants are not included.

Please contact [international@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:international@waikato.ac.nz) for any queries relating to this document.

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## APPENDIX 2: English Language Entry Requirements (Undergraduate)

Applicants whose first language is not English or te reo Māori are required to provide satisfactory evidence of English language proficiency, generally in the form of an IELTS (academic) or TOEFL examination score. Scores can vary according to the qualification sought.

International applicants who have achieved University Entrance through NCEA, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge International in New Zealand are not required to provide further evidence of English language proficiency. IELTS and TOEFL may not be used as replacements for these literacy requirements.

### 1. Students whose first language is English or te reo Māori

English will be considered the first language of citizens (passport holders) of the following countries, regardless of their actual place of residence and, who have evidence of successful tertiary study or a senior secondary qualification in the English medium:

- The United Kingdom
- The Republic of Ireland
- The United States of America
- Canada (including all provinces, if the qualification has been taught in English)
- Singapore

New Zealand and Australian citizens and permanent residents are not included as they are domestic students and therefore do not fall under the international student language requirement.

International applicants with te reo Māori as their first language will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Divisions.

### 2. English Proficiency Tests (excluding admission to LLB, BSW and ITE programmes)

All test results are valid for two years from the date of the test to the proposed start date at the University of Waikato. The requirements must be met within one test sitting or on one certificate.

IELTS (Academic)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
PBT TOEFL	Overall score of 60 with writing score of 21
iBT TOEFL (internet based)	Overall score of 80 with a minimum writing score of 21
Pearson (PTE) Academic	Overall score of 50 and no PTE communicative score below 42
C1 Advanced (formerly Cambridge English Advanced CAE)	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge Proficiency Exam CPE)	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)	80
Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE)	ISE II with distinction in all 4 components
Language Cert - International ESOL	C1 Expert (LRWS) with a Pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill

All other evidence is considered on a case-by-case basis.

### 3. Admission to professional undergraduate programmes

A number of professional bodies specify the English language competency requirements for the following qualifications:

#### 3.1. Admission to LLB

The following minimum scores are considered to be evidence of such competence:

- an Academic IELTS overall score of 6.5 (with no less than 6.0 in any band), or
- an iBT (Internet Based TOEFL) score of 90 with a Writing score of 21, or
- a B grade or better at Level 8 in the Certificate of Attainment in Academic English, or
- a PTE Academic overall score of 58 and no PTE communicative skills score below 50.

All other evidence is considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### 3.2. Admission to BSW

All students who do not have English, Māori, or New Zealand sign language as their primary language must demonstrate either:

- an Academic IELTS overall score of 6.5 (with no less than 6.5 in any band) or
- an iBT (Internet Based TOEFL) score of 85 or higher with a Writing score of 22.

These tests must have been completed in one sitting within the previous two years. All other evidence will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### 3.3. Admission to Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes (BTchg, BEd[Technology])

The following minimum scores are considered to be evidence of such competence:

- an Academic IELTS overall score of 7.0 (with no less than 7.0 in any band);
- International Baccalaureate full diploma in English medium (24 points minimum). This must be completed at an IB school;
- Cambridge International Examinations minimum 120 points on the UCAS Tariff plus meeting the CIE literacy requirements;
- Awarded Cambridge Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA);
- Awarded Trinity College London Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CertTESOL);
- Cambridge English exams C2 Proficiency (CPE) or C1 Advanced (CAE) or Cambridge English exams B2 First (FCE). A minimum score of 185, with no band score less than 185;
- International Second Language Proficiency Ratings (ISLPR). A minimum score of 4 in all modules;
- Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic. A minimum score of 65 in all four modules;
- Trinity ISE III (3). A pass with Merit in all four modules;
- LanguageCert C2 Mastery IESOL. A pass in all four modules;
- LanguageCert C1 Expert IESOL. A high pass in all four modules;
- TOEFL Internet-based test (IBT). Must meet the following scores in each module: Listening - 24; Reading - 24; Writing - 27; Speaking – 23.

## 4. Prior Study in English

Prior study in English is valid for two years from the completion of the English programme to the start date of the student's programme at the University of Waikato.

If applicants can provide evidence of further study or work in the medium of English, or hold a passport from a country where English is the predominant language<sup>1</sup> and where there is evidence of further study or work in the medium of English, this validity is for five years. Each applicant will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### 4.1. Foundation Studies Programmes

Programme	English Grade required	IELTS equivalent
Waikato Certificate of Attainment in Foundation Studies (CAFS)	B-	6
UP International College – University of Auckland Certificate in Foundation Studies	B	6
Taylor's Auckland Foundation Year	70%	6
NZ University Foundation programmes (1 year)	B (or equivalent)	6
Australian Group of 8 Universities (1-year programmes)	70%/B	6
A Recognised Australian Foundation Programme (1-year programme)	75%/B+	6
A recognised UK Foundation Programme (1-year programme)	75%/B+	6
NCUK International Foundation Year (1-year programme)	C grade overall and no less than D grade in each component	6

### 4.2. English Language Programmes

Programme	English Grade required	IELTS equivalent
Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)	B grade at level 7	6
University of Auckland FCertEAP and EPUS	C-	6
AUT Certificate in English for Academic Study (CertEAS)	B overall, minimum B in writing, all other grades C+ or higher	6
Lincoln University Certificate in English for Academic Purposes (EAP)	65%	6

<sup>1</sup> As defined by UK ECCTIS and Australian NOOSR: American Samoa, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Canada, Fiji, Gibraltar, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Nigeria, PNG, Republic of Ireland, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, The Gambia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe

University of Otago English for Undergraduate Academic Purposes (EUAP)	C	6
New Zealand Certificates in English Language (NZCEL)	Level 4 (Academic)	6
Accredited Pathways Assessment (APA) <sup>2</sup> English NZ accredited schools	English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment Level 2 (with no skill lower than Level 1)	6

## 5. International Secondary Qualifications

Prior study in English is valid for two years from the completion of the English programme to the start date of the student's programme at the University of Waikato.

### GCE Advanced Level

General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced-Level, or any qualification recognised by UK ECCTIS (British Council) being equivalent to GCE A-levels, which is fully taught/examined in English. These include:

Applicants who gain an E (pass) grade in one of the following English-intensive GCE A-Level subjects are deemed to have achieved an IELTS equivalency of 6.0:

- Biology
- Business Studies
- Classical Studies
- Economics
- English First Language
- English Literature General Paper
- General Studies
- Geography
- History

### GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS – Levels)

General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Subsidiary, or any qualification recognised by UK ECCTIS as being equivalent to GCE AS-Levels, which is fully taught/examined in English including:

GCE AS level English Language or Literature	IELTS equivalent
E	6.0

### General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

GCSE, or any qualification recognised by UK ECCTIS as being equivalent to General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), which is fully taught/examined in English including:

GCSE English Language or Literature	IELTS equivalent
C	6.0

<sup>2</sup> Subject to satisfactory approval by UNZ

## Singapore-Cambridge GCE

Recommended English proficiency requirement deemed equivalent to IELTS 6.0, no bands less than 5.5

Subject	H2 level	H1 level
English language & linguistics	E	-
Literature in English	E	C
General Paper	-	C
Knowledge & Enquiry	E	-
History	E	-
Economics	E	-
Principles of Accounting	E	-
Management of Business	E	-
Geography	E	-
Biology	E	-

## International Baccalaureate (IB)

Recommended English Proficiency requirement deemed equivalent to IELTS 6.0:

Higher level		English grade required
	English A: Literature or Language & Literature	4
	English Language B	5
Standard level	English A: Literature or Language & Literature	5

## 6. Country Specific Qualifications

Australia	50% in an English-intensive subject in a recognised Year 12 qualification
Canada	50% in a Grade 12 English-intensive subject in a recognised Canadian High School Diploma.  Completion of a recognised two-year community college associate degree
Denmark	Weighted grade average of 7 in English A, or 10 in English B (Studentereksamen)
Fiji	60% in an English-intensive subject at Year 13 Certificate Examination (7th Form)  Form 7: Aggregate over 4 subjects of 250 marks out of 400 with a minimum of 50 in English  USP Foundation in Arts, Business or Social Science with a grade average of B or higher and no grade lower than C in the 8 required courses

Finland	Grade of 5 (scale 0-7) in English Language in Ylioppilastutkinoto or Studentexamen,  Grade of 8 (scale 4-10) in English or English A language in the Upper Secondary School Certificate
France	Grade 12 Option Internationale du Baccalaureat (American and British)
Germany	Abitur English Language Grade of 3 (scale 1-6) or 10 (scale 1-15)  DAAD language certificate for undergraduate: level B2 (checked at least 4 stars)
Hong Kong	Level 4 in English language in Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)
India	Minimum of 60% in English from one of the following: i. Indian School Certificate (ISC); ii. All-India Senior School Certificate (AISSC);  A minimum of 65% in English in the Senior School Certificate awarded from one of the following Year 12 Indian State Boards: i. Tamil Nadu Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC); ii. Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Higher (Secondary) School Certificate; iii. Karnataka Pre-University Certificate
Malaysia	C Grade in English in STPM  C Grade in SPM English 1119 (English as a First Language)  B+ Grade in English in Foundation Programme (Foundation course must be a MQA approved programme and taught and Examined in English)
Netherlands	Grade of 7 (in a scale 0-10) in English Language in the Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs (VWO) (Gymnasium A/B and Atheneum A/B) Diplomas (university preparatory education)
Norway	Pass (minimum 4 on the 1-6 scale) in English Language in the Vitnemal
Samoa	Grade of C1 (60-64%) in HEN004 Foundation English in Foundation Certificate from National University of Samoa
Singapore	Completion of National University of Singapore (NUS) High School Diploma  Completion of three-year diploma (full-time) conducted in English, from one of the following polytechnics: Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic
Sweden	C grade in the Hogskoleforberedande examen English 7
South Africa	Grade of 5 or C in English in the National Senior Certificate / Senior Certificate / Matriculation English
South Pacific Countries	Merit in English in South Pacific Form Seven Certificate
Tonga	Merit in English in the Tonga National Form Seven Certificate



USA	Completion of a recognised two-year community college associate degree Completion of High School Diploma with a minimum attendance of at least 2 years SAT Reasoning Test with an Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score of 550 ACT ELA score of 25
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## 7. Tertiary study in the Medium of English or te reo Māori

Students are required to have successfully completed a minimum of 1-year full-time study at a university or polytechnic recognised by UK ECCTIS, NOOSR or relevant government body in the countries listed below, and the degree must be comparable to a New Zealand bachelor degree. The study must have been completed no more than 2 years before the commencement of their programme at Waikato. This is valid for:

- Australia
- Botswana
- Canada (if the degree is taught in English)
- Cayman Islands
- Cyprus (if the degree is taught in English)
- Fiji
- Ghana
- Guyana
- Hong Kong (if the degree has been taught in English)
- India (if the degree has been taught in English, and the institution is approved by NOOSR/ECCTIS)
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- 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
- University of West Indies

## 8. Offshore Campuses

Some qualifications are offered by universities and polytechnics in a number of locations in the world and are deemed acceptable for English language equivalency regardless of location.

## 9. Study in New Zealand

Students will be eligible for admission if they have studied in English or te reo Māori:

- Successfully completed a minimum 1-year full-time bachelor degree level study at a university or polytechnic in New Zealand, or
- Successfully completed a diploma in an academic subject of at least 2 years duration at a tertiary education provider in New Zealand, accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). The student must have gained a minimum B grade average over the last year of their diploma.

## 10. Study Abroad and Exchange

In the case of exchange and study abroad students (who are not applying for degrees at the University of Waikato):

### 10.1. Tertiary Study in English Medium

Successful completion in Bachelor degree study or above at a university or polytechnic from a country listed under (7).

### 10.2. Certificat de Competences en Langues de l'Enseignement Superieur (CLES)

Successful completion at level 2.

### 10.3. General English Proficiency Test (GEPT)

Applicants must pass all four components at high or intermediate level or above.

### 10.4. Partner Universities: Letter of Recommendation

A letter of recommendation is acceptable from an authorised faculty staff member from a partner 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. Direct applicants should provide evidence of English language proficiency as per University guidelines above. The countries are:

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

A letter of recommendation is acceptable from applicants from partner institutions from the following countries:

- France

## 11. Waivers

Students who do not meet the English language admission requirements as outlined above may in some circumstances be granted a waiver. Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Applicants may be required to undertake recommended English language support.