

Undergraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies



Waipapa
Taumata Rau
University
of Auckland

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, 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. Please note that [domestic applicants](#) are not included.

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

Pathways for Meeting English Language Proficiency

1	International Applicants from Majority English Speaking Countries.....	4
2	English Proficiency Tests	4
3	Prior Study in English	5
3.1	Foundation Studies.....	6
3.1.1	Foundation Certificates and Years	6
3.1.2	Foundation English Programmes.....	6
3.2	International Secondary Qualifications	7
3.2.1	General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCE A-Level)	7
3.2.2	General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-Level).....	8
3.2.3	General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)	8
3.2.4	Singapore-Cambridge GCE	9
3.2.5	International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma.....	9
3.3	Country Specific Qualifications.....	10
3.4	Tertiary Study in the English Medium	13
3.5	Study within New Zealand	15
4	Study Abroad and Exchange.....	15
4.1	Tertiary Study in the English Medium.....	15
4.2	Certificat de Competences en Langues de l'Enseignement Superieur (CLES) - in English	15
4.3	General English Proficiency Test (GEPT).....	15
4.4	Letter of Recommendation.....	15

4.5	Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).	16
4.6	Switzerland.....	16
5	Special Cases	16
5.1	The Occupational English Test	16
6	English Language Waivers.....	16
6.1	English Language Waiver Conditions.....	17
7	Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements.....	18
7.1	English Language Proficiency Requirements for Initial Teacher Education Programmes	19

1 International Applicants from Majority English Speaking Countries

Passport holders of the countries listed below will satisfy 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:

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

Please note that initial Teacher Education Programmes require additional evidence of English competency due to professional registration requirements. For initial Teacher Education Programmes view the range of accepted evidence [here](#).

If you have completed senior secondary or tertiary study in the English medium but you are not a passport holder of one of these countries, please refer to [Section 3](#) 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 [18](#).

Minimum Requirements

IELTS (Academic) ²	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
IELTS (Academic) Online	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Internet-based TOEFL (iBT): 120-point scale ³	Overall score of 80 and a writing score of 21
Internet based TOEFL (iBT): Special Home Edition	Overall score of 80 and a writing score of 21
Internet-based TOEFL (iBT): 6-point scale ³	Overall score of 4.0 and a writing score of 4.0

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

² IELTS and PTE UKVI tests are also accepted.

³ TOEFL iBT 120-point scale until January 2026 and TOEFL iBT 6-point scale from January 2026

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
Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic²	Overall score of 50 and no PTE Communicative score below 42
PTE Online⁴	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
LanguageCert – Academic	A minimum score of 65 overall and no skill below 60
LanguageCert – International ESOL	C1 Expert (LRWS) with a pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill
AEMG English for Academic Purposes Direct Entry Program (AEAP DEP) Final Exam	Overall score of 65% with no section below 60%
English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment	Assessment Level 2 overall and no skill below Level 1
Oxford Test of English	Overall score of 126 and no module score below 111

3 Prior Study in English

Validity Period – Prior study in English is valid for **two years** from the date you completed your previous study to the date you begin your study at UoA.

The validity period can be extended to **five years** with evidence of further study in English, English language work experience, or if you hold a passport from a “predominantly” English-speaking country⁵. The decision to extend the validity period to five years will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Completion of the following qualifications with the required English grade will meet our Undergraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements. Each of these English grades also has an assigned IELTS equivalency which UoA use to indicate the level of English proficiency.

⁴ Must undertake Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment (DELNA) screening and any stipulated follow-up action within 2 weeks of enrolment at the University of Auckland.

⁵ American Samoa, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Cameroon, Fiji, Gibraltar, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, South Africa, The Gambia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Approved by Education Committee in July 2026 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2026, for commencement in Semester 1 2027 and onwards.

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 on page 4.

Please note that the qualifications 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 6.5).

3.1 Foundation Studies

3.1.1 Foundation Certificates and Years

Foundation Certificate/Year (completed and awarded)	English grade required	IELTS equivalence
UP International College - UoA Certificate in Foundation Studies (EAP module)	70% (B grade)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	65% (B- grade)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Study Group – Foundation Studies Certificate (EAP module)	70% (B grade)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	65% (B- grade)	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) ⁶	70% (or equivalent)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	65% (or equivalent)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
New Zealand University Foundation Programmes (one-year programmes only)	70% (B grade)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	65% (B- grade)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
UP International College - AUT Certificate in Foundation Studies (EAP module)	70% (B grade)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	65% (B- grade)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Kings Education – Advanced Level Foundation (Communication and Study Skills module)	65%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	60%	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

⁶ University of Adelaide College Foundation Studies Program, Foundation Studies – Trinity College, University of Melbourne, Monash University Foundation Year, University of New South Wales Standard Foundation Program and Transition Program, University of Queensland Foundation Program, University of Sydney Foundation Program and University of Western Australia Foundation Program.

	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
University of Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)	CAEL level 8	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
NCUK International Foundation Year English for Academic Purposes module (EAP)	B overall with no bands below C	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	C overall with no bands below D	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

3.2 International Secondary Qualifications

Exchange and Study Abroad (COPOS/COPEX) applicants who have successfully completed one of the International Secondary Qualifications or Country Specific Qualifications below will not be subject to the two-year validity period for prior study completed in English. However, if a Study Abroad (COPOS/COPEX) applicant also applies for a degree level programme at UoA, then this application will be subject to the two-year validity period.

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

GCE A-Level⁷, or any qualification recognised by UK ENIC⁸ as being equivalent to GCE A-Levels, which is fully taught/examined in English.

GCE A Level English Intensive Subject	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

⁷ Must be endorsed by Cambridge International, OCR, Edexcel, AQA or other UK authorities (independent and school- assessed GCE A-levels are not sufficient).

⁸ UK National Information Centre for the recognition and evaluation of international qualifications and skills

English intensive subjects include Biology, Business Studies, Classical Studies, Economics, English First Language, English Literature, General Paper, General Studies, Geography and 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 [Section 3.3](#).

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

GCE AS-Level⁹, or any qualification recognised by UK ENIC 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 [Section 3.3](#).

3.2.3 General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

GCSE¹⁰, or any qualification recognised by UK ENIC as being equivalent to GCSE, which is fully taught/examined in English.

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 [Section 3.3](#).

⁹ Must be endorsed by Cambridge International, OCR, Edexcel, AQA or other UK authorities (independent and school- assessed GCE AS-levels are not sufficient).

¹⁰ Must be endorsed by Cambridge International, OCR, Edexcel, AQA or other UK authorities (independent and school-assessed GCSE levels are not sufficient).

3.2.4 Singapore-Cambridge GCE

English proficiency requirement 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	–

English proficiency requirement 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	–

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

Approved by Education Committee in July 2026 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2026, for commencement in Semester 1 2027 and onwards.

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 are accepted as meeting the minimum English language requirement for entry to the University when the required English grades are also achieved. Some of these qualifications do not meet higher IELTS requirements (unless stated) and are not accepted for those programmes where IELTS is required to meet professional registration requirements. Please refer to the degree specific requirements on page 18 for this information.

Country	Qualification	Grade	IELTS Equivalence
Australia	Year 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	10	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	Studentereksamen English A	7	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	Studentereksamen English B	12	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	Studentereksamen English B	10	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

Country	Qualification	Grade	IELTS Equivalence
Finland	Ylioppilastutkinoto or Studentexamen, English Language	6 (0-7 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	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	9 (4-10 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	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	Baccalauréat français international (American, Australian and British English)	12	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Germany	Abitur English Language	2 (1-6 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	Abitur English Language	3 (1-6 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	Abitur English Language	13 (1-15 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	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 5	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) English	Level 4	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
India	Indian School Certificate, All India Senior School Certificate, and Grade 12 English from specified Higher Secondary State Boards ¹¹	75%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		70%	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	Grade 12 English from all other Higher Secondary State Boards	85%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
		80%	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

¹¹ Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board, Bengaluru and West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education

Country	Qualification	Grade	IELTS Equivalence
		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 15) for other NZ qualifications		Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
Norway	Vitnemål English Language	6 (1-6 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	Vitnemål 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	B1 (75-79%)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	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	Högskoleförberedande examen English 7	B	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	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	6 or B	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	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

Country	Qualification	Grade	IELTS Equivalence
		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	9 (0-10 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	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	Recognised 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
	An English Intensive subject at grade 12	B (0-4 grading scale)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	Advanced Placement (AP)	3 in AP English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	ACT ELA Score	28	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	ACT ELA Score	25	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
	SAT Reasoning Test Evidence-based Reading & Writing	650	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
	SAT Reasoning Test Evidence-based Reading & Writing	550	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
English-intensive Subjects (see Australia, Canada, Fiji, USA)	<i>Biology, Classical Studies, Economics, English Language, English Literature, History, History of Art, Geography</i>		

3.4 Tertiary Study in the English Medium

For prior tertiary study, applicants are required to have successfully completed a minimum of one year of full-time study at a university or polytechnic institution recognised by UK ENIC¹² or NOOSR¹³ and the degree must be comparable to a New Zealand Bachelor's Degree.

This is valid for the following countries and territories:

- Australia
- Barbados
- Botswana
- Cameroon (if degree has been taught in English)
- Canada (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Cayman Islands
- Cyprus (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Ethiopia (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
- Malawi
- Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- New Zealand - refer to section 3.5 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 Gambia
- The Netherlands
- Uganda (if the degree has been taught in English)
- UK
- USA
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

¹² UK National Information Centre for the recognition and evaluation of international qualifications and skills

¹³ National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition – Australia

Also:

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

Note: Some of the countries' specific qualifications in [Section 3.3](#) and above are offered in a number of locations around the world and are accepted regardless of location. The same applies for [Section 3.4](#) where tertiary institutions have campuses in other countries, or agreements with institutions in other countries.

3.5 Study within New Zealand

Applicants 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's 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 has been achieved over the last year

4 Study Abroad and Exchange

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

4.1 Tertiary Study in the English Medium

Prior enrolment in Bachelor's 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:

Approved by Education Committee in July 2026 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2026, for commencement in Semester 1 2027 and onwards.

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

4.5 Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

Qualifications and tests using the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for meeting academic English language requirements may be considered with:

- Minimum Grade: B2, equivalent to IELTS 6.0

4.6 Switzerland

Option 1: Successful completion of at least one year of degree-level study (or higher) taught and assessed entirely in English within the last two years, supported by a letter from the home university.

Option 2: *Certificat de Maturité Fédérale / Maturitätszeugnis / Attestato Di Maturità* – score of 5 or higher in English.

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
Grade B or minimum score of 400 out of 500 in each of the four skills	Overall score of 7.5 and no bands below 7.0
Grade C+ or minimum score of 300 out of 500 in each of the four skills	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
Grade C or minimum score of 200 out of 500 in each of the four skills	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5

Please note that the same validity period which is stated in [Section 2](#) also applies here.

6 English Language Waivers

Applicants 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 will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by Applications and Admissions and may require further supporting evidence. All applicants who are awarded a waiver will also be required to sit a Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment ([DELNA](#)) no later than two weeks after commencement of their first semester. Any recommended enrichment/support must be undertaken.

Note: Applicants applying for the Initial Teacher Education Programmes are not eligible for English Language Waivers.

6.1 English Language Waiver Conditions

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

- One year of successful full-time study towards a Bachelor's Degree from a university, or polytechnic institution from a country NOT listed in [Section 3.4](#). The medium of instruction during this study must have been English and study must not have been completed more than 2 years before the beginning of study at UoA.
- One year of successful full-time study towards a Bachelor's Degree from a university, or polytechnic institution from one of the countries listed in [Section 3.4](#). This prior study must have been completed more than 2 years for the countries listed or more than 5 years, for those who are also citizens of predominantly English-speaking countries, before the start of study at UoA¹³
- Evidence of work experience in English.

¹³ American Samoa, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Cameroon, Fiji, Gibraltar, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, South Africa, The Gambia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

7 Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements

	IELTS		TOEFL 120-point scale ¹⁴		TOEFL 1-6 scale ¹⁴		CAE or CPE		FCertEAP	PTE Academic		MELAB	AEMG AEAP DEP Final Exam	
Undergraduate Programmes	Overall score	Minimum band score	Overall score	Writing score	Overall score	Writing score	Overall score	Minimum band score	Overall score	Overall Score	Minimum communicative skills score	Overall score	Overall score	Minimum section score
Bachelor of Architectural Studies	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Arts	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Biomedical Science	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Commerce	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Communication	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Dance Studies	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Design	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Education (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)	6.5	6.0	90	21	4.5	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85	70%	65%
Bachelor of Fine Arts	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Global Studies	6.5	6.0	90	21	4.5	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85	70%	65%
Bachelor of Health Sciences	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Laws (Part I)	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Laws (Part II)	7.0	6.5	98	24	5.0	5.0	185	176	A-	65	58	90	N/A	N/A
Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBCbB)	7.5	7.0	106	24	5.5	5.5	191	185	N/A	73	65	92	N/A	N/A
Bachelor of Medical Imaging (Honours)	7.0	6.5	100	24	5.0	5.0	185	176	A-	65	58	90	N/A	N/A
Bachelor of Music	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Nursing	6.5	6.0	90	21	4.5	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85	70%	65%
Bachelor of Optometry	6.5	6.0	90	21	4.5	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85	70%	65%
Bachelor of Pharmacy	6.5	6.0	90	21	4.5	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85	70%	65%
Bachelor of Sport, Health and Physical Education	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours)	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Property	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Bachelor of Science	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Conjoint Degrees	6.0	5.5	80	21	4.0	4.0	169	162	C-	50	42	80	65%	60%
Engineering, Global Studies and Health Sciences Conjoint Degrees	6.5	6.0	90	21	4.5	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85	70%	65%
Graduate Diplomas														
Graduate Diplomas in Arts and Commerce	6.5	6.0	90	21	4.5	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85	70%	65%

Approved by Education Committee in July 2026 and effective for applications received on or after 1 August 2026, for commencement in Semester 1 2027 and onwards.

Graduate Diplomas in Engineering	6.5	6.0	90	21	4.5	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85	70%	65%
----------------------------------	-----	-----	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----

7.1 English Language Proficiency Requirements for Initial Teacher Education Programmes

	IELTS		TOEFL Internet-based					CAE or CPE		PTE Academic	
	Overall score	Minimum band score	Overall score	Reading score	Listening score	Speaking score	Writing score	Overall score	Minimum band score	Overall score	Minimum score in each Communicative Skill
Undergraduate Teaching Programmes*											
Bachelor of Education (Teaching)*	7.0	7.0	5	5	5	4.5	5.5	185	185	65	65
Graduate Diplomas in Teaching*	7.0	7.0	5	5	5	4.5	5.5	185	185	65	65

* Applicants must provide evidence to demonstrate their English language competency, as per the requirements of the Teaching Council NZ. View the range of accepted evidence [here](#).

¹⁴ The TOEFL iBT 6-point scale replaced the 120-point scale in January 2026; the latter may continue to be used as long as the test was taken within the normal 2-year validity period.