

2018 Postgraduate 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 applicants whose first language is not English will be 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.

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 7](#).

IELTS (Academic)	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
Internet-based TOEFL (iBT)	Overall score of 90 and a written score of 21
Paper-based TOEFL	Overall score of 575 and an Essay (TWE) of 4.5
Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)	Overall score of 176 and no bands below 169
Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE)	Overall score of 176 and no bands below 169
Foundation Certificate in English for Academic Purposes (FCertEAP)	Grade of B-
Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic	Overall score of 58 and no PTE communicative score below 50
Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)	85

Pathways for Meeting English Language Proficiency

International students for whom English is a First Language	3
Other international students	3
1 Foundation English Programmes	3
2 University study in the English Medium	4
2.1 Qualifications taught in Offshore Campuses	5
3 Special Cases	5
3.1 Studies in English Language	5
3.2 Marginal TOEFL/IELTS	6
3.3 Teaching in English	6
3.4 Law applicants from Norway	6
3.5 Other	6
4 Postgraduate Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements	7

International Students for whom English is a First Language

Passport holders of the countries listed below will be deemed to have IELTS/TOEFL equivalency on providing 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

If you have completed tertiary study in the English medium but you are not a passport holder of one of the countries listed above please refer to the sections below for further information.

Please note that New Zealand and Australian citizens are not included as they are domestic students.

Other International Students

The following qualifications/scores are acceptable IELTS equivalencies. All qualifications and scores are valid for two years from the date the study was completed.

1 Foundation English Programmes

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).

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
University of Auckland English Pathway for Undergraduate Studies (EPPS)	A-	Overall score of 7.0 and no bands below 6.5
	B-	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
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
Lincoln University Certificate in English for Academic Purposes	70%	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0
University of Otago English for Postgraduate Academic Purposes	C	Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6.0

The 2018 English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies were approved by Education Committee in November 2016.

2 University Study in the English Medium

Students are required to have completed a bachelor degree (minimum three years duration) or postgraduate degree (minimum one year duration, or minimum two years duration if applying for a Doctoral programme) at a university recognised by UK NARIC¹ or NOOSR² and the degree should be comparable to a New Zealand university degree. The degree must have been completed no more than two years before the commencement of the programme at UoA.

The following are exceptions to the two year validity period outlined above and will be assessed on a case by case basis:

Where the degree was completed no more than five years before the commencement of the programme at UoA and an applicant can provide evidence of sustained work in an English language environment

Where the degree was completed more than two years before the commencement of the programme at UoA but less than five an applicant may meet English proficiency requirements if they can provide evidence of residence in New Zealand or another predominately English-speaking country³ since completion of their study⁴.

This is valid for the following countries and territories:

- Australia
- Botswana
- Canada (if the degree has been taught in English)
- 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
- Lethoso
- Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Malta
- Mauritius

1 National Recognition Information Centre - UK

2 National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition – Australia

3 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.

4 At the request of the Board of Graduate Studies Doctoral applicants may be required to supply further evidence of their English language proficiency.

- Nigeria
- New Zealand⁵
- 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: Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- University of West Indies: all Caribbean countries and territories.

2.1 Qualifications taught in Offshore Campuses

Some universities are offering qualifications from their offshore campuses in a number of locations throughout the world. Successful completion of qualifications at bachelor degree level or higher from these campuses is deemed acceptable for English Language equivalency for admission to postgraduate studies.

3 Special Cases

Students who have not met English proficiency through the above standards may in some circumstances be granted a waiver. This must be approved by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) through the Faculty on a case by case basis. Such circumstances may include the following:

3.1 Studies in English Language

Completion of a Masters level degree in the subject of English language from a recognised university.

⁵ Applicants who have completed a minimum of a bachelor degree (Level 7) at a New Zealand Polytechnic recognised by NARIC or NOOSR will be deemed to have met the English language requirement.

3.2 Marginal TOEFL/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 then this case may be considered. 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.

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.

3.3 Teaching in English

Past significant experience of teaching in English (two years or more) at tertiary level, in a recognised university where English is the first language.

3.4 Law applicants from Norway

Students from Norway, who are applying for the Postgraduate Certificate in Law or Master of Laws will qualify for admission and English equivalency for the Postgraduate Certificate in Law or Master of Laws at the University of Auckland provided they have obtained a pass (minimum 4) in Vitnemal English.

3.5 Other

A combination of factors where one on its own is insufficient:

- Current GRE or GMAT score
- Medium of instruction for Bachelors degree is English
- Published research in English and presented at conference

4 Postgraduate Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements

	IELTS		TOEFL				CAE or CPE		FCertEAP	PTE Academic		MELAB
	Overall score	Minimum band score	Internet-based		Paper-based		Overall score	Minimum band score	Overall score	Overall Score	Minimum communicative skills score	Overall score
Postgraduate 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 Arts (Honours)	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Bachelor of Science (Honours)	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Architecture	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Arts	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Commerce	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Dance Studies	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Education	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Engineering	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Fine Arts	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Health Sciences	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Health Leadership	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Advanced Interpreting	Please refer to University of Auckland Calendar											
Postgraduate programmes in Law	7.0	6.5	100	24	600	5.0	185	176	A-	65	58	90
Postgraduate programmes in Music	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Nursing	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Optometry	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Planning	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Property	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Public Health	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Science	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Master of Audiology	7.5	7.0	106	24	625	5.0	191	185	N/A	73	65	92
Master of Health Sciences (Nutrition and Dietetics)	7.5	7.0	106	24	625	5.0	191	185	N/A	73	65	92
Master of Social Work (Professional)*	7.0	7.0	N/A									
Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice	7.5	7.0	106	24	625	5.0	191	185	N/A	73	65	92

The 2018 English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies were approved by Education Committee in November 2016.

Master of Teaching (Primary or Secondary) *	7.5	7.0	N/A									
Postgraduate programmes in Theology	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85
Postgraduate programmes in Translation Studies	7.0	6.5	100	24	600	5.0	185	176	A-	65	58	90
Master of Professional Studies (Translation)	Please refer to University of Auckland Calendar											

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