

## 2019 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 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.

### 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 one test certificate. Please note that some programmes have higher requirements; for these please refer to the degree specific requirements on [page 8](#).

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

## Pathways for Meeting English Language Proficiency

International Students from Majority English Speaking Countries .....	3
Other International Students .....	3
1 Foundation English Programmes .....	3
2 University Study in the English Medium .....	4
2.1 Bachelor degree and Postgraduate Study .....	4
2.2 Qualifications taught in Offshore Campuses .....	5
2.3 Graduate Diplomas from New Zealand Universities .....	5
3 Special Cases .....	6
3.1 Studies in English Language .....	6
3.2 Teaching in English .....	6
3.3 Law applicants from Norway .....	6
3.4 The Occupational English Test .....	6
4 English Language Waivers .....	7
4.1 Marginal TOEFL/IELTS .....	7
4.2 Other .....	7
5 Postgraduate Degree-Specific English Language Proficiency Requirements .....	8

## **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 successful tertiary study in the English medium:

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

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.

## **Other International Students**

The following qualifications/scores are acceptable IELTS equivalencies. Some of the programmes below only have IELTS equivalency for IELTS 6.5 (no band below 6.0). 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.

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).

### **1 Foundation English Programmes**

<b>Foundation Programme</b>	<b>English grade required</b>	<b>IELTS equivalence</b>
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 Postgraduate 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	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 2019 English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies were approved by Education Committee in September 2017.

## 2 University Study in the English Medium

### 2.1 Bachelor degree and Postgraduate Study

Students are required to have completed a bachelor degree (minimum three years duration) or postgraduate qualification (minimum one year duration, or minimum two years duration if applying for a Doctoral programme) at a university recognised by UK NARIC<sup>1</sup> or NOOSR<sup>2</sup> and the degree must 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.

This is 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
- Lethoso
- Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- New Zealand<sup>3</sup>
- 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

---

<sup>1</sup> National Recognition Information Centre - UK

<sup>2</sup> National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition – Australia

<sup>3</sup> 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

- USA
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Also:

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

The following are exceptions to the two year validity period outlined above and will be assessed on a case by case basis<sup>4</sup>:

- 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. This must be in the form of a CV and reference letter(s).
- 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 country since completion of their study<sup>5</sup>.

## 2.2 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<sup>6</sup>.

## 2.3 Graduate Diplomas from New Zealand Universities

Students must have completed a one year full time Graduate Diploma from a New Zealand University. The Graduate Diploma must have been completed no more than two years before the commencement of the programme at UoA. Please note that this does not meet the English language requirement for Doctoral programmes.

---

<sup>4</sup> At the request of the Board of Graduate Studies doctoral applicants may be required to supply further evidence of their English language proficiency

<sup>5</sup> 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

<sup>6</sup> At the request of the Board of Graduate Studies doctoral applicants may be required to supply further evidence of their English language proficiency

### **3 Special Cases**

#### **3.1 Studies in English Language**

Completion of a postgraduate qualification of at least one year in duration, in the subject of English language from a University recognised by UK NARIC<sup>7</sup> or NOOSR<sup>8</sup>The qualification must have been completed no more than two years before the commencement of the programme at UoA.

#### **3.2 Teaching in English**

Experience teaching at a tertiary level in the English medium for two years or more, in a recognised university where English is the language of instruction. Please refer to the list of countries in [section 2.1](#) for acceptable countries. The teaching experience must have been no more than two years before the commencement of the programme at UoA.

#### **3.3 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.

#### **3.4 The Occupational English Test**

The Occupation English Test (OET) will be accepted for all Faculty of Medical and Health Science programmes. A grade of B will be considered equivalent to an IELTS score of 6.5 (no band below 6.0).

---

<sup>7</sup> National Recognition Information Centre - UK

<sup>8</sup> National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition – Australia

## 4 English Language Waivers

Students who have not met English proficiency through the above standards may in some circumstances be granted a waiver<sup>9</sup>. A recommendation must be submitted by the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of the relevant faculty for approval by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic). All cases will be assessed on a case by case basis. Such circumstances may include the following:

### 4.1 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.

### 4.2 Other

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

- A postgraduate qualification (at least one year in duration) or Bachelor degree from a University located in one of the countries listed in section 2.1, and completed more than 5 years prior to the commencement of study at UoA
- Current GRE or GMAT score
- Medium of instruction for Bachelors degree is English
- Published research in English and presented in English at conference(s)

---

<sup>9</sup> Waiver requests will not be considered for doctoral applicants unless an accepted English language test has been undertaken, usually within the last 2 years

## 5 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
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

The 2019 English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies were approved by Education Committee in September 2017.



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											
Doctoral programmes**	6.5	6.0	90	21	575	4.5	176	169	B-	58	50	85

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

\*\* At the request of the Board of Graduate Studies doctoral applicants may be required to supply further evidence of their English language proficiency