Postgraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies

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 for any queries relating to this document.
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**APPENDIX 3: English Language Entry Requirements (Postgraduate & Higher Research Degrees)**

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.

1. **International students for whom English is a First Language**

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 medium of English:

- 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**

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IELTS (Academic)</td>
<td>Overall score of 6.5 and no bands below 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBT TOEFL</td>
<td>Overall score of 68 and a writing score of 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iBT TOEFL (internet based)</td>
<td>Overall score of 90 with a minimum writing score of 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson (PTE)</td>
<td>Overall score of 58 and no PTE communicative score below 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1 Advanced (formerly Cambridge English Advanced CAE)</td>
<td>Overall score of 176 and no bands below 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge Proficiency Exam CPE)</td>
<td>Overall score of 176 and no bands below 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE)</td>
<td>ISE III with pass in all 4 components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Cert - International ESOL</td>
<td>C1 Expert (LRWS) with a high pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill OR C2 Mastery with a pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All other evidence is considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Prior Study in English

3.1. English Language Programmes

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 language¹ 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>English Grade required</th>
<th>IELTS equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)</td>
<td>B at level 8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Auckland (FCertEAP and EPPS)</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUT Certificate in English for Academic Study (CertEAS)</td>
<td>A overall, minimum A in writing, all other grades B+ or higher</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln University Graduate Certificate in Academic English</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Otago English for Postgraduate Academic Purposes (EUAP)</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand Certificates in English Language (NZCEL)</td>
<td>Level 5 (Academic)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Pathways Assessment² (APA) English NZ accredited schools</td>
<td>English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment Level 3 (with no skill lower than Level 2)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2. Tertiary Study in the Medium of English or te reo Māori

Students are required to meet one of the following requirements:

Sub-doctoral
- A bachelor degree (3-year minimum duration), or
- A postgraduate qualification (1-year minimum duration).

Doctoral (including MPhil)
- A bachelor degree (3-year minimum duration), or
- A postgraduate qualification (1-year minimum duration) and a bachelor degree (3-year minimum duration), with no more than 2 years between the completion of the bachelor degree and the commencement of the postgraduate qualification, or
- A postgraduate qualification (2 years minimum duration).

¹ As defined by UK NARIC (National Agency for the Recognition and Comparison of International Qualifications and Skills) and Australian NOOSR (National Office for Overseas Skills Recognition): 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

² Subject to approval by Academic Board
The qualification must be from a university or polytechnic recognised by UK NARIC or NOOSR and the degree should be comparable to a New Zealand university degree.

- 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 section 1 universities only/NARIC)
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malaysia (if the degree has been taught in English)
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- 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

3.3. Offshore Campuses

Some qualifications are offered by universities and polytechnics at offshore campuses in the medium of English. Successful completion of qualifications at bachelor degree level or higher from these campuses within timeframes specified in this document is deemed acceptable for English Language equivalency for admission to postgraduate studies.
4. **Study Abroad and Exchange**

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

4.1. **Tertiary Study in English Medium**

Prior enrolment in Bachelor degree study or above at a university or polytechnic from a country listed under (3.2).

4.2. **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 the medium of English. Direct applicants should provide evidence of English language proficiency as per University guidelines. These 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

5. **Waivers**

Students who do not meet the English language admission requirements as outlined above may in exceptional circumstances be granted a waiver.

All students applying for a waiver for admission to sub-doctoral qualifications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. All students who are granted a waiver will be required to sit a post-entry language assessment (PELA) within one month of commencement of study, and to undertake any recommended support.

All students applying for a waiver for admission to a doctoral programme will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. A request must be submitted by the relevant Division to the Postgraduate Research Committee through the Associate Deans/Director (Postgraduate). All students who are granted a waiver will be required to sit a post-entry language assessment (PELA) within one month of commencement of study, and to undertake any recommended support.

**Grounds for a waiver include:**

**Sub-doctoral including MPhil:**

5.1. **Studies in English Language**

Completion of a postgraduate qualification of at least one year’s duration in the subject of English language from a recognised university no more than 2 years prior to the commencement of their programme.
5.2. Other

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

- Current GRE or GMAT Score
- Medium of Instruction for Bachelor’s degree in English
- Published research in English and presented at conference(s)
- Evidence of extensive work experience in the English language
- A postgraduate qualification (at least one year) or Bachelor degree from a university or polytechnic located in one of the countries listed under 3.2, and completed at least 2 years before beginning study at Waikato.

Doctoral:

5.3. 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 no more than two years prior to the commencement of their programme.