



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

NEW ZEALAND

# Pre-degree 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 [waikatocollege@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:waikatocollege@waikato.ac.nz) for any queries relating to this document.

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## APPENDIX 1: English Language Entry Requirements (pre-degree)

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 literacy 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
- NZ
- Australia
- 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. Certificate of Attainment in Foundation Studies (CAFS)

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.

	<b>CAFS (accelerated)</b>	<b>CAFS (standard)</b>
<b>IELTS (Academic)</b>	IELTS score of 5.5 (with at least 5.5 in the Writing band and no band less than a 5.0)	IELTS score of 5.5 (with at least 5.0 in the Writing band)
<b>PBT TOEFL</b>	Overall score of 44 with writing score of 14	Overall score of 44 with writing score of 14
<b>iBT TOEFL (internet based)</b>	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 18	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 14
<b>Pearson (PTE)</b>	PTE Academic overall score of 42 and no band score lower than 38	PTE Academic overall score of 42 and no band score lower than 36
<b>Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)</b>	B grade or better with a B in Writing at level 6	B grade or better at level 6
<b>NZCEL</b>	Level 3 Applied	Level 3 Applied
<b>Trinity ISE</b>	ISE II with no less than merit in any band	ISE II with no less than pass in any band

<b>Language Cert - International ESOL</b>	B1 Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with High Pass and no less than Pass in each skill	B2 Communicator IESOL (LRWS) with Pass and no less than Pass in each skill
<b>Cambridge English</b>	B1 & B2: overall score of 162 and no bands below 154	B1 & B2: overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
<b>MELAB</b>	75	75
<b>Accredited Pathways Assessment (APA)<sup>1</sup> English NZ accredited schools</b>	English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment Level 1	English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment Level 1

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

### 3. International Diplomas (IntDip(Bus and IntDip(CompSc))

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.

<b>IELTS (Academic)</b>	IELTS score of 5.5 (no band less than a 5.0)
<b>PBT TOEFL</b>	Overall score of 44 with writing score of 14
<b>iBT TOEFL (internet based)</b>	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 18
<b>Pearson (PTE)</b>	PTE Academic overall score of 42 and no band score lower than 38
<b>Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language(CAEL)</b>	B grade or better with a B in Writing at level 6
<b>NZCEL</b>	Level 3 Applied
<b>Trinity ISE</b>	ISE II with no less than merit in any band
<b>Language Cert - International ESOL</b>	B1 Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with High Pass and no less than Pass in each skill
<b>Cambridge English</b>	B1 & B2: overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
<b>MELAB</b>	75
<b>Accredited Pathways Assessment (APA)<sup>2</sup> English NZ accredited schools</b>	English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment Level 1

### 4. Diploma in Postgraduate Preparation – Pre-Masters (DipPP)

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.

<b>IELTS (Academic)</b>	Overall score of 6.0 and no bands below 5.5
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<sup>1</sup> Subject to satisfactory approval by UNZ

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

<b>PBT TOEFL</b>	Overall score of 60 with writing score of 21
<b>iBT TOEFL (internet based)</b>	Overall score of 80 with a minimum writing score of 21
<b>Pearson (PTE) Academic</b>	Overall score of 50 and no PTE communicative score below 42
<b>C1 Advanced (formerly Cambridge English Advanced CAE)</b>	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
<b>C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge Proficiency Exam CPE)</b>	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
<b>Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)</b>	80
<b>Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE)</b>	ISE II with distinction in all 4 components
<b>Language Cert - International ESOL</b>	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.

## 5. Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)

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	PBT TOEFL	iBT TOEFL	Pearson (PTE)	NZCEL	Trinity ISE	Language Cert	Cambridge English
CAEL level 1	IELTS score below 4.0							
CAEL level 2								
CAEL level 3								
CAEL level 4	IELTS score of 4.0 overall (4.0 in the writing band and no less than 3.5 in the other bands), or equivalent assessed on a case-by-case basis							
CAEL level 5	IELTS score of 4.5 overall (4.5 in the writing band and no less than 4.0 in the other bands)	n/a	Overall score of 32-34 overall, with a writing score of 12	PTE Academic overall score of 34	Level 2	ISE I with no less than a merit in any band	n/a	147

<b>CAEL level 6</b>	IELTS score of 5.0 overall (5.0 in the writing band and no less than 4.5 in the other bands)	Overall score of 33 with writing score of 14	Overall score of 35 overall with a writing score of 14	PTE Academic overall score of 36 and no band score lower than 36	Level 3 (general)	ISE I with no less than distinction in any band	B1 Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with Pass and no less than Pass in each skill	B1 & B2: overall score of 154 and no bands below 147
<b>CAEL level 7</b>	IELTS score of 5.5 overall (5.5 in the writing band and no less than 5.0 in the other bands)	Overall score of 44 with writing score of 14	Overall score of 46 overall with a writing score of 14	PTE Academic overall score of 42 and no band score lower than 36	Level 3 Applied	ISE II with no less than pass in any band	B2 Communicator Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with Pass and no less than Pass in each skill	B1 & B2: overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
<b>CAEL level 8</b>	IELTS score of 6.0 overall (6.0 in the writing band and no less than 5.5 in the other bands)	Overall score of 60 with writing score of 21	Overall score of 80 overall, with a writing score of 21	Overall score of 50 and no band score lower than 42	Level 4 (academic)	ISE II with distinction in all 4 components	C1 Expert (LRWS) with a Pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill	C1 & C2: overall score of 169 and no bands below 162

## 6. Prior Study in English

- 5.1. For admission into Foundation Studies Programmes, and International Diplomas through Foundation Studies Programmes, please contact University of Waikato College to discuss: [waikatocollege@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:waikatocollege@waikato.ac.nz)
- 5.2. For admission into Foundation Studies Programmes and International Diplomas through English Language Programmes:

Programme	Grade required for entry to CAFS accelerated	Grade required for entry to CAFS standard	Grade required for entry to international diploma	Grade required for entry to DipPP
Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)	B grade with a B in Writing at level 6	B grade at level 6	B grade with a B in Writing at level 6	B grade at level 7
NZCEL	Level 3 Applied	Level 3 Applied	Level 3 Applied	Level 4 Academic

Students who have completed an Academic English programme at another institution in New Zealand will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## 7. 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.

## 8. Country Specific Qualifications

See [pathways.waikato.ac.nz/admissions/entry-requirements](http://pathways.waikato.ac.nz/admissions/entry-requirements) for satisfactory evidence of proficiency in English for a select list of countries.