



# 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 applicants whose first language is not English or te reo Māori. All international applicants, as well as New Zealand and Australian permanent visa holders, 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 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

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 sitting, unless stated otherwise, or on one certificate.

	<b>CAFS (standard)</b>
<b>IELTS (Academic) (Includes One Skill Retake (OSR) and Indicator<sup>1</sup>)</b>	IELTS score of 5.5 (with at least 5.0 in the Writing band)
<b>iBT TOEFL (internet based and home versions)</b>	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 14
<b>Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic<sup>2</sup></b>	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 at level 6
<b>New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL)</b>	Level 3 (Applied)
<b>Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English</b>	ISE II with no less than Pass in any band

<sup>1</sup> Students who are accepted using the IELTS Indicator will be required to undertake a supplementary language assessment.

<sup>2</sup> PTE Academic Online is not accepted

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<b>LanguageCert - International ESOL</b>	B2 Communicator IESOL (LRWS) with a High Pass and no less than 25/50 in each skill
<b>LanguageCert - Academic</b>	Overall score of 60 with no band less than 55
<b>B1 &amp; B2 (formally known as Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))</b>	With an overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
<b>C2 Proficiency (formally known as Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))</b>	With an overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
<b>Michigan English Test (formally known as Michigan Language Assessment Battery (MELAB))</b>	Minimum score of 50
<b>Duolingo English Test (DET)</b>	95 overall with 95 in writing and no other band less than 80

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 sitting, unless stated otherwise, or on one certificate.

<b>IELTS (Academic) (Includes One Skill Retake (OSR) and Indicator<sup>3</sup>)</b>	IELTS score of 5.5 (no band less than a 5.0 in any band or equivalent)
<b>iBT TOEFL (internet based and home versions)</b>	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 14
<b>Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic<sup>4</sup></b>	Overall score of 42 and no communicative skills score below 36
<b>Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)</b>	B grade or better with a B in Writing at Level 6
<b>New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL)</b>	Level 3 (Applied)
<b>Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English</b>	ISE II with no less than a merit in any band
<b>LanguageCert - International ESOL</b>	B2 Communicator IESOL (LRWS) with a high pass and no less than 25/50 in each skill
<b>LanguageCert – Academic</b>	Overall score of 60 with no band less than 55
<b>B1 &amp; B2 Proficiency (formally known as Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))</b>	Overall score of 162 and no bands below 154

<sup>3</sup> Students who are accepted using the IELTS Indicator will be required to undertake a supplementary language assessment.

<sup>4</sup> PTE Academic Online is not accepted

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<b>Michigan English Test (formally known as Michigan Language Assessment Battery (MELAB))</b>	50
<b>Duolingo English Test (DET)</b>	95 with no band less than 80

### 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 sitting, unless stated otherwise, or on one certificate.

<b>IELTS (Academic) (Includes One Skill Retake (OSR) and Indicator<sup>5</sup>)</b>	Overall score of 6.0 (with no less than 5.5 in any band)
<b>iBT TOEFL (internet based and home versions)</b>	Overall score of 80 with a minimum writing score of 21
<b>Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)</b>	B grade or better at Level 7
<b>Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic<sup>6</sup></b>	Overall score of 50 with no communicative score below 42
<b>LanguageCert - International ESOL</b>	C1 Expert Communicator (LRWS) with a pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill
<b>LanguageCert - Academic</b>	Overall score of 65 with no band less than 60
<b>New Zealand Certificate in English Language</b>	(Academic) (Level 4)
<b>Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE)</b>	ISE II with distinction in all four components
<b>B2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge Proficiency Exam CPE)</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 Test (formally known as Michigan Language Assessment Battery (MELAB))</b>	Minimum score of 54
<b>Duolingo English Test (DET)</b>	105 with no band less than 95

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

<sup>5</sup> Students who are accepted using the IELTS Indicator will be required to undertake a supplementary language assessment.

<sup>6</sup> PTE Academic Online is not accepted

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### 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	Duolingo	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),		Duolingo 60 overall with a writing score of 60 and no band less than 55	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 band less than 4.0)	n/a	70 overall with a writing score of 70 and no band below 60	32-34 overall, with a writing score of 12	PTE Academic overall score of 30 with no communicative score below 26	Level 2	ISE I with no less than a merit in any band	n/a	147

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<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	85 overall with a writing score of 85 and no band below 65	Overall score of 35 with a writing score of 14	PTE Academic overall score of 36 with no communicative score below 30	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	95 overall with a writing score of 95 and no band below 80	Overall score of 46 overall with a writing score of 14	PTE Academic overall score of 42 with no communicative score below 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	105 overall with a writing score of 105 and no band below 95	Overall score of 80 overall, with a writing score of 21	Overall score of 50 with no communicative score below 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

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