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| **ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  **REQUIREMENTS FOR PGR APPLICANTS** |

**English language information**

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# 1. Minimum English language requirements for admission to research study

The following standards have been approved on a University-wide basis by the Graduate Board on the recommendation of its Programmes of Study and Audit Group. This policy, indicating a required minimum level of English language across the institution, complies with the QAA Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Programmes and meets Home Office English Language standards in respect of students applying for a Tier 4 General Student Visa. The Graduate Board reviews the requirements periodically.

The three most widely used English language tests are IELTS, TOEFL and Pearson.

These tests are accepted by the University if there is less than two years between the test date and the applicant’s start date.

**International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** ([www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org))

IELTS is an internationally recognised language test and is widely available to take throughout the world. It covers all four language skills and is considered to be a comprehensive English language test.

It is the University’s preferred test as it tests British English and the scoring system is easy to understand.

There are three versions of the IELTS test; Academic, General and UKVI. We accept the Academic and UKVI versions.

Minimum requirement:

Overall: 6.0

Listening: 5.5

Reading: 5.5

Speaking: 5.5

Writing: 5.5

**Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)** (<http://www.ets.org/toefl/>)

TOEFL is an internationally recognised language test and is widely available to take throughout the world. It covers all four language skills and is considered to be a comprehensive English language test.

TOEFL is a test of North-American English.

There are several versions of TOEFL. We accept the internet based test (iBT)

Minimum requirement:

Overall: 87

Reading: 20

Listening: 20

Speaking: 22

Writing: 21

**Pearson PTE Academic** (<https://pearsonpte.com/>)

Pearson PTE Academic is an internationally recognised language test and is widely available to take throughout the world. It covers all four language skills and is considered to be a comprehensive English language test.

Minimum requirement:

Overall: 60

Other skills: 56 in each Communicative Skill

# 2. Requirements for split-site applicants

For split-site applicants the minimum English language requirement is as follows:

**IELTS (Academic)**

Overall 6.5, with at not less than 6.0 in any individual skill

**Internet based TOEFL (iBT)**

Overall 92, with not less than 21 in listening and reading, 23 in speaking and 22 in writing

**Pearson PTE Academic**

Overall 64, with not less than 60 in any individual skill

# 3. Faculties, Schools and Programmes with a higher English language requirement.

A School or Faculty can raise the required minimum level of English above the University minimum but cannot lower it.

The minimum University language requirement is IELTS band score 6.0 (with not less than 5.5 in any skill area ) or internet based TOEFL (iBT) 87 (with not less than 20 in listening and reading, 21 in writing and 22 in speaking) or Pearson PTE Academic 60 (with not less than 56 in any skill)

A higher level of English of IELTS Band Score 6.5 (with not less than 6.0 in any skill area) oriBT TOEFL 92 (with not less than 21 in listening and reading, 22 in writing, and 23 in speaking) or Pearson PTE Academic (with not less than 60 in any skill) is required in the following Schools and Faculties:

**Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures** (see exception below)

**Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law** (see exception below)

**Faculty of Medicine and Health**

**School of Food Science and Nutrition** (see exception below)

**Leeds University Business School** requires IELTS Band Score 7.0 (with not less than 6.0 in any skill) or iBT TOEFL 100 (with not less than 21 in listening and reading, 23 in speaking and 22 in writing).

The **School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies** requires IELTS Band Score 6.5 (with not less than 7.0 in writing and not less than 6.0 in any other skill) oriBT TOEFL 92 (with not less than 21 in listening and reading, 23 in speaking and 25 in writing).

The **School of Law** require IELTS (Band Score 7.0 (with not less than 6.0 in any skill) or iBT TOEFL 100 (with not less than 23 in listening and reading, 25 in speaking and 24 in writing).

The **Professional Doctorate and the Integrated degree of PhD and MSc in Clinical Dentistry in the Leeds Dental Institute and** programmes in **Nutritional Epidemiology within the School of Food Science and Nutrition**,require IELTS band score 7.0 (with not less than 6.5 in any skill) oriBT TOEFL 100 (with not less than 23 in listening and reading, 25 in speaking and 24 in writing).

4. Cases where students do not need to provide separate evidence of their level of English

In most cases, applicants who have been educated entirely in English up to at least first degree level in the following countries will be regarded as having fulfilled the University’s English language requirements:

* **Australia**
* **Belize**
* **Botswana**
* **Cameroon**
* **Canada**
* **Caribbean States where English is the first language**
* **Gambia**
* **Ghana**
* **Guyana**
* **Ireland**
* **Kenya**
* **Malawi**
* **Malta**
* **New Zealand**
* **Namibia**
* **Nigeria**
* **Sierra Leone**
* **South Africa**
* **Tanzania**
* **Uganda**
* **United Kingdom**
* **United States of America**
* **Zambia**
* **Zimbabwe**

Applicants will be regarded as having met the English Language requirement if they have been awarded:

1. a postgraduate degree (Masters or Doctorate not a PG Diploma or PG Certificate) from one of the above countries (where English is the first language and used as the medium of instruction throughout the education system), if the degree was studied on a full-time, continuous basis and was at least 12 months in duration and was awarded [[1]](#footnote-1)less than 2 years and 4 months from the proposed start date. **Or**
2. an undergraduate degree awarded from one of the above countries (where English is the first language and used as the medium of instruction throughout the education system), if the degree was studied on a full-time, continuous basis for at least two academic sessions (years) and was awarded less than 2 years and 4 months from the proposed start date of their studies at Leeds. This would include a 2+2 arrangement.

If a School/Faculty wish to accept an applicant who does not meet the requirements for English Language laid out above, a case should be submitted to PGRO on the English language case template which can be found at <http://ses.leeds.ac.uk/info/22177/decision-making_and_admissions_procedures/1023/exceptional_cases_for_postgraduate_research_admissions>

# 5. Other qualifications which can be accepted as meeting the University’s minimum requirement:

Hong Kong Examinations Authority Use of English: grades A - C

* University of Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language: grades A – C
* Hong Kong Examinations Authority Certificate of Education in English language Syllabus B (Ordinary): grades A - C

Malaysian Certificate of Education: English language at Ordinary level if designated 121 (not322 or 122): grades 1 - 6

Cambridge Overseas School Certificate in English language: grades 1 – 6

Singapore/Cambridge GCE O level in English language: grades 1 - 6

All-Indian Senior School Certificate at Standard XII with 70% or above (awarded by the Central Board of Secondary Education), together with evidence use of English as the medium of instruction throughout compulsory schooling

**The following can be accepted, if there is less than two years between the test date and the applicant’s start date:**

* University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations: Certificate of Proficiency in English: grades A - C
* University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations: Certificate in Advanced English: grades A - C
* City and Guilds Pitman Qualifications English for Speakers of Other Languages: a pass at Expert (or the Higher Mastery) Level in both the ESOL and Spoken ESOL examinations
* Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English Examination at level III
* Durham University English Language Centre Eight-Week Academic English Pre-sessional Programme in Culiacan, Mexico

Other qualifications may be considered following advice from the Language Centre and consideration by the Programmes of Study and Audit Group***.***

# 6. English language qualifications for applicants from the EU (who do not need a visa to come to the UK)

For Schools that require applicants to meet the University minimum English language requirement the following can also be accepted

**European High School Certificates as follows:**

**Denmark**:

8 or higher (9, 10, 11, 12, 13) in English in the Højere Forberedelseseksamen

**Finland**:

4 or higher (5, 6) in English in the Ylioppilastutkinto/studentexamen

**Germany**:

2 or higher (1) in English in the Zeugnis der Allgemeinen Hochschulreife/ Abitur

**Netherlands**:

7.5 or higher (8, 9, 10) in English in the Voorberidend Wetenschappe Onderwijs

**Norway**:

4 or higher (5, 6) in English in the Vitnemal

**Sweden**:

3/Godkänd or higher (4 /Väl Godkänd, 5/Mycket Väl Godkänd) in English in the Avgangsbetyg

**Ireland**:

Irish Leaving Certificate – Grade C or above in Ordinary Level English

It may be possible to accept other European English language qualifications in cases where there is valid and reliable evidence that the applicant has reached the level of **C1** on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in each of the four skill areas.

Other qualifications may be considered but advice will be sought from the Language Centre by PGRO.

# 7. Qualifications which are not acceptable

UCLES/Cambridge First Certificate in English

UCLES/Cambridge ESOL Preliminary English Test

"Institutional” and Paper-Based TOEFL

# 8. Use of pre-sessional courses offered by the Language Centre

Conditional offers can be made to suitable applicants with a strong academic profile who fall just short of the English language entry criteria, subject to them successfully completing an appropriate pre-sessional English language course at the Language Centre or meeting the usual English language requirement.

The Language Centre has reviewed and produced a [matrix](http://ses.leeds.ac.uk/info/22205/pre-sessional_english/880/general_pre-sessional_english) which shows the IELTS scores and which pre-sessional courses are appropriate. For example, if an applicant has an IELTS listening score of 5.0 and the other component scores are at 5.5 then the applicant is eligible to undertake a 10 week pre-sessional programme. If the score is 5.5 overall and no components are below 5.5 then the applicant can undertake a 6 week pre-sessional course.

Please see the link to the Language Centre’s website at the bottom of this page. Please note that if an overseas applicant wishes to study a pre-sessional course, due to Home Office regulations, then they must take IELTS at certain tests centres. Further details of these can be found on the <https://www.gov.uk> website or from the Language Centre. As at May 2016 the Home Office’s list is [here:](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-for-uk-visa-approved-english-language-tests)

If an applicant wishes to apply for a pre-sessional course then they need to complete the English Language Programmes Application Form which can be found at:

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/info/125008/english_language/1330/applications>

Notification of results following a pre-sessional course

For clear pass and fail cases, the Language Centre will communicate the decision directly to the student. Should there be a borderline case then this will be discussed in more depth with the School before a final recommendation is made.

UK Visas and Immigration - Tier 4 and CAS

If an applicant has an offer which is conditional upon passing a pre-sessional course, they will need a CAS for the language course and a subsequent CAS for the research degree. The language course visa lasts one week beyond the course end date so there is time for a new CAS to be issued once PGRO has been notified that the applicant has successfully completed the pre-sessional course. The applicant will then be able to make a visa application for their research degree from within the UK. Once they have submitted this application to the Home Office, they will be able to register onto their degree programme.

Applicants who hold an unconditional offer of a place on a research degree programme but wish to undertake a pre-sessional course, can be issued with one joint CAS provided that the pre-sessional course lasts no longer than three months and the gap between the end of the pre-sessional course and the start of the research degree is less than one month.

Communication:

PGR offer letters contain a web link to the Language Centre.

**Please note there is no guarantee that an applicant will be successful in their Language course. If an applicant is not successful in their language course then they will not be able to start research degree study until they have met the English language requirement.**

Further information:

Information about the Language Centre including entry requirements, course dates and fees can be found at: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/downloads/20056/language_centre>

LDC/Admissions 2019

1. The date of the award is taken to be the standard award date assuming that the candidate had no extensions to their period of study and has been awarded at the earliest opportunity following completion of the course. For example, a Leeds Masters student who started their course in September would have an award date of November of the following year. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)