

English Language Proficiency for Admission Procedure

Section 1 - Purpose

(1) This Procedure sets out the level of English language proficiency (ELP) required for admission to ACU courses and the processes around meeting those requirements.

Section 2 - Scope

(2) This Procedure applies to all prospective and/or current students applying for entry into coursework and non-award programs delivered by ACU, at undergraduate and postgraduate level including inbound Study Abroad and Exchange students.

(3) This procedure does not apply to Higher Degree by Research students.

Section 3 - Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

(4) Terms used in this procedure are consistent with ACU's [Glossary of Student and Course Terms](#). In the context of this procedure the following terms also apply:

Term	Definition
English Language Proficiency	In the context of Admission to Coursework Programs means the required standard of English language that must be demonstrated to gain entry into a course at ACU.

(5) The following acronyms and abbreviations are used in this procedure:

C1 Advanced	Cambridge English Advanced
IELTS Academic	International English Language Testing System
OET	Occupational English Test
PTE	Pearson Test of English
TOEFL iBT	Test of English as a Foreign Language (Internet-based Test)

Section 4 - English Language Proficiency for Admission

(6) ELP is a requirement for admission to all coursework and non-award studies at ACU.

(7) ELP requirements are approved by Academic Board at the point of course accreditation for admission to all coursework programs and take into consideration the level of English language skills needed to commence and

successfully progress through a program, and the requirements of external accreditation bodies where applicable.

(8) Any change to ACU's minimum ELP requirements must be approved by Academic Board and will normally apply from the next academic year.

Section 5 - Evidence of English Language Proficiency

(9) All ACU applicants must satisfy English language proficiency (ELP) requirements. Evidence requirements depend on the applicant's circumstances, including whether they are from a recognised English-speaking background or have completed prior education taught and assessed in English. For most courses, ACU uses the list of countries and assessable qualifications published by [UAC](#).

(10) ELP requirements are subject to change. Where such requirements are amended prior to course commencement, applicants may be required to meet the updated requirements.

(11) Where ELP evidence is submitted by an applicant on more than one occasion, the most recently submitted evidence will normally be accepted for assessment.

(12) All ELP evidence submitted by an applicant is subject to verification by ACU.

(13) The following online English language tests are not recognised or accepted at ACU:

- a. IELTS Indicator / IELTS Online
- b. TOEFL iBT Home Edition
- c. PTE Academic Online

General Evidence Requirements

(14) Applicants may demonstrate ELP based on English completed as part of any senior secondary school studies deemed by ACU to be equivalent to Australian Year 12. Approved alternatives are outlined in the relevant state-based TAC English Proficiency Schedules.

(15) For all courses, ELP can also be evidenced by one of the following:

- a. demonstrated completion of an approved English language test with a minimum accepted result as set out in Tables 1 and 2 of this procedure. Any such ELP test must normally have been completed no earlier than two years prior to the commencement of the course of study to which a prospective student seeks admission; or
- b. demonstrated current registration with an accredited body that has an English language requirement equivalent to, or higher than, the standards required by the University. Recognised registrations include:
 - i. [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#) (Ahpra) registration other than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Health Practice registration;
 - ii. Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) Teacher registration;
 - iii. Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) Teacher registration;
 - iv. NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Teacher registration; and
 - v. ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) Teacher registration.

(16) Applicants may also be able to demonstrate ELP based on residency, full-time work and/or life experience in an English-speaking country as per the time limits set out in Section 6 of this procedure.

Discipline Specific Requirements

(17) For certain programs that lead to professional accreditation/registration there are mandated ELP requirements.

Initial Teacher Education (ITE)

(18) For Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses, ELP can be demonstrated through successful completion of at least two full-time years of study of a secondary or tertiary qualification at AQF Diploma level or higher, where the medium of study was English and the qualification was completed no more than two years prior to the commencement of the course of study to which a prospective student seeks admission.

Nursing and Midwifery courses

(19) For all undergraduate Nursing and all undergraduate Midwifery courses ELP can be demonstrated either by:

- a. providing a written declaration that English is the primary language or;
- b. evidence of achieving the minimum English language test results as specified in the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) English language skills registration standards, or through one of the following pathway options:
 - i. the "Primary Language Pathway" (as defined by NMBA) where a prospective student provides evidence of attendance and satisfactory completion of at least six years of primary and secondary education taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country, including at least two years between years 7 and 12; or
 - ii. the Test Pathway (as defined by NMBA) where results must be within 2 years of enrolling and meet the criteria outlined in Table 1 of this Procedure.

Other course requirements

(20) For programs other than those identified in clauses (17) to (19), a prospective student may demonstrate ELP through successful completion of:

- a. at least one full-time year of study of an Australian secondary or tertiary qualification in the last five years; or
- b. at least one full-time year in the last five years of an overseas qualification equivalent to an Australian secondary or tertiary qualification, where the medium of study was English as validated by ACU.

ELP based on Residency/Employment

(21) Applicants seeking to demonstrate ELP based on residency and employment in an English-speaking country must provide:

- a. evidence of ongoing residency (such as passport or visa documentation);
- b. a statement of service from an employer confirming the duration of employment and details of duties in an English language environment; and
- c. any other evidence of sufficient ELP.

(22) Such evidence is subject to the time limits as detailed in Section 6 of this procedure.

(23) Applicants seeking to demonstrate ELP based on residency and employment and/or life experience in a non-English speaking country may be considered, however, must provide a statement from the employer or equivalent confirming that work has been conducted in an English-speaking environment.

Section 6 - Time Limits

(24) Evidence of ELP must be current when the applicant commences their studies at ACU. Time limitations apply to the age of the evidence used to demonstrate ELP:

- a. Approved English language tests must normally be completed no more than two years prior to commencement at ACU; and
- b. Other qualifications used to demonstrate ELP should normally be completed no more than five years prior to commencement at ACU.

(25) Time limits do not apply where an applicant seeks to demonstrate ELP on the basis of a combination of formal qualifications and work and/or life experience and who have provided evidence that:

- a. the applicant is from a recognised English-speaking background, or that they completed at least the final four years of their secondary schooling in English or in a recognised English-speaking country; or
- b. they have continuously resided or worked in a recognised English-speaking country between the completion of their studies and commencement at ACU.

Section 7 - Roles and Responsibilities related to ELP

Global

(26) Global are responsible for:

- a. provision of marketing insights in relation to ELP;
- b. concordance of ELP between approved acceptable tests for entry;
- c. endorsement of ELP requirements for new programs; and
- d. endorsement of amendments to the ELP requirements for existing programs.

Faculties

(27) Faculties are responsible for:

- a. setting and communicating the ELP requirements for admission into the programs they administer;
- b. monitoring of student performance in engaging with academic content of their programs in relation to ELP in accordance with the Student and Course Monitoring Policy.

Courses and Academic Quality Committee

(28) Courses and Academic Quality Committee is responsible for:

- a. endorsement of ELP requirements for new programs; and
- b. endorsement of amendments to ELP requirements for existing programs.

Academic Board

(29) Academic Board is responsible for:

- a. approval of ELP requirements for new programs; and
- b. approval of amendments to ELP requirements.

Section 8 - English Language Proficiency Requirement Bands

(30) ELP requirements will normally be set within English Language Requirement Bands as approved by Academic Board and as detailed in Table 1 of this procedure. Where ELP requirements for a course cannot be set within an existing English Language Requirement Band the requirement will be specified in the relevant entry requirement field of the [Course Browser](#).

Table 1 English Language Requirement Bands

(31) *[TOEFL iBT Australia](#) is the test currently accepted by National Boards for registration purposes and is recommended for entry at ACU. For tests taken on or after 21 January 2026, only TOEFL iBT Australia results are accepted. TOEFL iBT scores reported on the 1–6 scale are not currently accepted.

Evidence	International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic	PTE Academic	*TOEFL iBT (0-120 scale)	C1 Advanced	ACU English Language test; or ACU EAP
Band A	Overall score: 6.0 Individual score of 5.5 in all tests	50 with a minimum of 42 in all four communicative skills	Internet-based total of 60 with a minimum of 18 in writing, 8 in reading, 16 in speaking and 7 in listening	Overall score 176 Minimum score of 169 in all tests	C (60-62%)
Band B	Overall score: 6.0 Individual score of: 6.0 in writing and speaking, 5.5 in listening and reading	50 with a minimum of 50 in writing and speaking and a minimum of 42 in reading and listening	Internet-based total of 60 with a minimum of 21 in writing, 18 in speaking, 8 in reading and 7 in listening	Overall score 185 Minimum individual score of 169 in all tests	C (63-64%)
Band C	Overall score: 6.5 Individual score of 6.0 in all tests	58 with a minimum of 50 in all four communicative skills	Internet-based total of 79 with a minimum of 21 in writing, 18 in speaking, 13 in reading and 12 in listening	Overall score 176 Minimum score of 169 in all tests	B (65-74%)
Band D	Overall score: 7.0 Individual score of 6.0 in all tests	65 with a minimum of 50 in all four communicative skills	Internet-based total of 94 with a minimum of 21 in writing, 18 in speaking, 13 in reading and 12 in listening	Overall score 185 Minimum individual score of 169 in all tests	A (75-79%)
Band E	Overall score: 7.0 Individual score of 6.5 in all tests	65 with a minimum of 58 in all four communicative skills	Internet-based total of 94 with a minimum of 24 in writing, 20 in speaking and listening and 19 in reading	Overall score 185 Minimum score of 176 in all tests	A (75-79%)
Band F1	Overall score: 7.0 Individual score of 7.0 in listening, reading and speaking and 6.5 in writing	66 with a minimum of 66 in listening reading and speaking and a minimum of 56 in writing skills	Internet-based total of 94 with a minimum of 24 in writing, reading and listening and 23 in speaking	Overall score 185 Minimum score of 185 in listening, reading and speaking and 176 in writing	A (75-79%) * Excluding Nursing and Midwifery and Postgraduate Psychology

Evidence	International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic	PTE Academic	*TOEFL iBT (0-120 scale)	C1 Advanced	ACU English Language test; or ACU EAP
Band F2	Overall score: 7.0 Individual score of 7.0 in listening, reading and speaking and 6.5 in writing	63 with a minimum of 58 in listening, 59 in reading, 60 in writing and 76 in speaking	Internet-based total of 91 with a minimum of 22 in listening, 22 in reading, 23 in writing and 24 in speaking	Overall score 178 Minimum score of 175 in listening, 179 in reading, 180 in writing and 194 in speaking	A (75-79%) * Excluding Nursing and Midwifery and Postgraduate Psychology
Band G	Overall score: 7.0 Individual score of 7.0 in all tests	65 with a minimum of 65 in all four communicative skills	Internet-based total of 94 with a minimum of 27 in writing, 23 in speaking, 24 in reading and listening	Overall score 185 Minimum score of 185 in all tests	A (75-79%)
Band H	A minimum of 7.0 in reading and writing and a minimum of 7.5 in listening and speaking	A minimum of 65 in reading and writing and a minimum of 73 in listening and speaking	Internet-based total with minimum scores of 24 in reading, 27 in writing, 27 in listening and 24 in speaking	A minimum of 185 in reading and writing and a minimum of 191 in listening and speaking.	A+ (80 -84)
Band I	A minimum of 7.0 in reading and writing and a minimum of 8.0 in listening and speaking	A minimum of 65 in reading and writing and a minimum of 79 in listening and speaking	Internet-based total with minimum scores of 24 in reading, 27 in writing, 28 in listening and 26 in speaking	A minimum of 185 in reading and writing and 200 in listening and speaking.	A++ (85 or above)

Course Minimum English Language Proficiency Requirements

(32) The following table sets out the Bands that are required for entry for courses offered at ACU. Where the English proficiency requirements for the course does not fall under an existing band the specific requirements will be set out in the Course Browser.

Table 2. Minimum English Language Proficiency Requirements by Course/Discipline.

COURSE/DISCIPLINE	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
Certificates Undergraduate Certificates Diplomas (excluding Philosophy Theology and Diploma in Educational Studies) Tertiary Preparation) Associate Degrees Incoming Study Abroad for (Undergraduate study) with concurrent language study	Band A
Foundation Studies	Refer to specific requirements
Diplomas in Theology and Philosophy Courses	Refer to specific entry requirements
Tertiary Preparation Program (Health Sciences)	Refer to specific entry requirements
Bachelor Degrees (unless specified below) Incoming Study Abroad for (Undergraduate study)	Band B

COURSE/DISCIPLINE	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Birth to Five Years) Other Health Sciences Courses ^[3] (not set out below) All Postgraduate Business All Postgraduate Theology and Philosophy All Postgraduate Arts Incoming Study Abroad (for Postgraduate study) Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) Postgraduate Digital and Human Futures Courses	Band C
Postgraduate Continuing Education Courses	Band D
All Law courses (Excluding Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Laws) Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology	Band E
Bachelor of Speech Pathology	Refer to specific entry requirements (* ACU English Language test or ACU EAP not accepted)
Bachelor of Nursing ^{[1] [2] [3] [4]} Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Paramedicine ^{[1] [2] [3]} Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Business Administration ^{[1] [2] [3]} Bachelor of Nursing (Enrolled Nurses) ^{[1] [2] [3]} Bachelor of Midwifery ^[2] Bachelor of Midwifery (Indigenous Cohort) Bachelor of Midwifery (Graduate Entry) ^[2] Bachelor of Occupational Therapy ^[3] Bachelor of Physiotherapy ^[3] Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) ⁽⁵⁾ Master of Professional Psychology ⁽⁵⁾ Master of Psychology (Clinical) ⁽⁵⁾ Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental) ⁽⁵⁾ Master of Mental Health Master of Sports and Exercise Physiotherapy Master of Sports and Exercise Physiotherapy / Master of High Performance Sport	Band F1 (Tests taken on or before 22 April 2026) Band F2 (Tests taken on or after 23 April 2026)
Bachelor of Paramedicine ^[3] Bachelor of Psychological Science ⁽⁴⁾ Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Arts ⁽⁴⁾ Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Business ⁽⁴⁾ Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice ⁽⁴⁾ Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science ⁽⁴⁾ Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Nutrition Science ⁽⁴⁾ Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Laws ⁽⁴⁾ Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) ⁽⁴⁾	Band F1
Bachelor of Social Work Master of Dietetic Practice Master of Social Work (Qualifying)	Band G
Undergraduate Initial Teacher Education Courses, except Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Birth to Five Years) ^[6] Diploma in Educational Studies (Tertiary Preparation)	Band H
Graduate Entry Initial Teacher Education courses including vertical degrees ^[6] Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) (Honours)	Band I

1 The Occupational English Test (OET) is accepted for entry into undergraduate Nursing courses. OET test requirements can be met from one test sitting, or two test sittings within a twelve-month period subject to the minimum scores and conditions applicable to the date on which each test was undertaken. For undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery courses, applicants must meet the minimum English language proficiency standards specified by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) that are in force at

the time the English language test was taken. Further information for applicants can be found here: [English Language Skills \(Ahpra\)](#).

2 Please note that English language test requirements may be met from one test sitting, or from two test sittings within a twelve-month period, subject to the minimum scores and conditions applicable to the date on which each test was undertaken. For undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery courses, applicants must meet the minimum English language proficiency standards specified by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) that are in force at the time the English language test was taken. Further information for Bachelor of Nursing applicants can be found here: [English Language Skills \(Ahpra\)](#).

3 Students must meet the English language requirements as set out by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) for professional registration purposes.

4 Successful completion of the ACU Tertiary Preparation Program (Health Sciences) fulfils the academic requirements and the English language requirements for entry to the following bachelor degree courses in the Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science, Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science/Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science/Bachelor of Nutrition Science, Bachelor of Nutrition Science, and Bachelor of Nutrition Science/Bachelor of Business. Please note that successful completion of the ACU Tertiary Preparation Program (Health Sciences) fulfils the academic requirements but does not fulfil the English language requirements for entry into the Bachelor of Nursing, the Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Business, the Bachelor of Psychological Science and related double degrees or the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours). An official English language test with minimum scores as per the table above is required for entry into these undergraduate courses.

5 Applicants must meet the English language requirements as set out by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and all students must be registered as a provisional psychologist with Ahpra by the time they undertake their first professional experience placement. If applicants are unsure when to commence the process of registration with Ahpra, please contact the relevant postgraduate Course Adviser for advice.

6 When applying for teacher registration in Australia, applicants must meet English language proficiency requirements set by the relevant state or territory authority. This can be demonstrated through either:

- a recognised English language proficiency test; or
- completion of at least four years of study in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, or the Republic of Ireland. Requirements may vary by state or territory, so applicants should check with the relevant authority.

Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	9th October 2026
Review Date	9th October 2031
Approval Authority	Academic Board
Approval Date	16th September 2026
Expiry Date	Not Applicable
Responsible Executive	Helen Murnane Academic Registrar
Responsible Manager	Katrina Wood National Manager, Graduations and Protocol
Enquiries Contact	Student Administration