



English Language Proficiency procedure

Section 1 - Preamble

- (1) This Procedure is effective from 25 November 2021.
- (2) This Procedure includes [Schedule A: Course-specific English language proficiency requirements](#).

Section 2 - Purpose

- (3) This Procedure sets out the minimum English language proficiency requirements for admission into the University's courses, and the evidence of achievement accepted by the University.

Section 3 - Scope

- (4) This Procedure applies to all applicants seeking to gain admission to the University's undergraduate and postgraduate coursework courses and higher degrees by research, Study Abroad and exchange programs.

Section 4 - Policy

- (5) This Procedure is pursuant to the [Admission Criteria and Selection \(Higher Education Courses\) policy](#) and [Higher Degrees by Research \(HDR\) policy](#).

Section 5 - Procedure

Minimum English language proficiency requirements

- (6) The University sets minimum English language proficiency requirements to ensure that all students can participate in their chosen studies and have a good chance of success.
- (7) All applicants must meet the minimum English language proficiency requirements.
- (8) In addition to meeting the minimum English language proficiency requirements applicants must meet the course admission criteria set out in [Admission Criteria and Selection \(Higher Education Courses\) procedure](#) or [Higher Degrees by Research \(HDR\) policy](#) as appropriate.
- (9) Applicants for combined degrees must meet the minimum English language proficiency requirements for both degrees. Where the individual degrees that comprise a combined degree are at different levels, the higher band applies.
- (10) International applicants who are required to obtain a student visa to study in Australia must satisfy the Department of Home Affairs' English language criteria. This requirement is in addition to the applicant meeting the University's minimum English language proficiency requirements.

(11) Inbound Deakin Study Abroad or exchange applicants must meet the minimum English language proficiency requirements for each unit in their proposed program. Requirements are determined according to the level that applies to the Deakin course in which the unit is offered. Where a unit is offered in courses at different levels, the minimum (lowest band) applies.

(12) Where an applicant is considered to have equivalent English language proficiency but is unable to provide evidence that meets the requirements set out in this Procedure, an Admissions Officer may apply for equivalent English language proficiency approval from Academic Board by completing an [English language proficiency request form](#). The application must include a rationale and evidence to substantiate the case. Academic Board will determine if the evidence demonstrates equivalent proficiency.

Time limitations

(13) Evidence of English language proficiency must be current when the applicant commences their studies at Deakin. Time limitations apply to the age of the evidence used to demonstrate English language proficiency:

- a. tests must be completed no more than 2 years prior to commencement at Deakin unless otherwise specified; and
- b. qualifications must be completed no more than 5 years prior to commencement at Deakin unless otherwise specified.

(14) Time limitations do not apply for qualifications if an applicant can demonstrate that:

- a. English is their primary language or they completed at least the final four years of their schooling in a recognised English-speaking country (see clauses 21 and 22); or
- b. they have continuously resided or worked in a recognised English-speaking country between the completion of their studies and commencement at Deakin (see clauses 21 and 22).

Waivers

(15) The University will not approve any waivers in relation to this Procedure.

Minimum English language proficiency requirements: Bands A-D and course-specific

(16) Academic Board approves minimum English language proficiency requirements for admission to Deakin University courses. These requirements are defined in four bands (Bands A-D).

(17) Academic units may seek approval to set a higher level of English language proficiency for specific courses, in accordance with the [Higher Education Courses Approval and Review procedure](#). For these courses, Bands A-D do not apply and applicants must meet the requirements specified for their proposed course of study.

AWARD	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
Certificates Diplomas Associate Degrees	Band A
Bachelor Degrees (excluding HEALTH)(unless specified below) Bachelor Honours Degrees (excluding HEALTH)	Band A
Bachelor Degrees – HEALTH (unless specified below) Bachelor Honours Degrees – HEALTH (unless specified below)	Band B

AWARD	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
Bachelor of Environmental Science (Honours) Bachelor of Forensic Science (Honours) Bachelor of Information Technology (Honours) Bachelor of Science (Honours) Bachelor of Marketing (Psychology) Bachelor of Human Resource Management (Psychology)	Band B
Graduate Certificates (unless specified below) Graduate Diplomas (unless specified below) Masters by Coursework (unless specified below) Masters by Research – SEBE, IFM, IISRI, A2I2 Doctorate by Research – SEBE, IFM, IISRI, A2I2	Band B
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Honours) Bachelor of Education (Primary) Bachelor of Health and Physical Education Bachelor of Laws and related combined degrees	Band C
Masters by Research – AE, BL, HEALTH Doctorate by Research – AE, BL and HEALTH (excluding Doctor of Psychology (Clinical))	Band C
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy* Bachelor of Social Work* Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry* Bachelor of Medical Imaging* Master of Dietetics Master of Psychology (Clinical) and (Organisational) Master of Social work Juris Doctor and related combined degrees Doctor of Medicine	Band D
Doctor of Psychology (Clinical)	Band D
Bachelor of Nursing Bachelor of Nursing (Clinical Leadership) Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Public Health and Health Promotion Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Psychological Science Graduate Diploma of Midwifery Note: In addition to meeting the Deakin English language requirements, all applicants must meet additional Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) English language requirements.	Band D Refer to Schedule A for additional ANMAC requirements.
Graduate Certificate of Applied Learning and Teaching Graduate Certificate of Specialist Inclusive Education Master of Applied Learning and Teaching Master of Specialist Inclusive Education Master of Teaching (Early Childhood) Master of Teaching (Primary) Master of Teaching (Primary and Early Childhood) Master of Teaching (Primary and Secondary) Master of Teaching (Secondary)	Course-specific Refer to Schedule A
*Only applies to international applicants who have not completed secondary qualifications taught in English (VCE English Units 3 or 4 or equivalent.) All other applications should meet the requirements of Band B.	

Providing evidence of minimum English language proficiency

(18) Applicants must demonstrate that they meet minimum English language proficiency requirements for the relevant Band by providing evidence from one of the following categories:

- a. Prior study, as set out in Part A; or
- b. English-speaking experience, as set out in Part B; or

c. International equivalents, as set out in Part C.

Part A: Prior study

(19) The following table sets out the requirements for demonstrating minimum English language proficiency through prior study. Applicants must provide evidence of meeting one of the following categories of prior study in the required band.

EVIDENCE	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D
QUALIFICATIONS				
Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) English Units 3 and 4 (or equivalent Australian secondary qualifications)	25 in English as an Additional Language (EAL) or 20 in any other English	30 in EAL or 25 in any other English	30 in EAL or 25 in any other English	30 in EAL or 25 in any other English
International Baccalaureate Diploma	Grade 4 in English	Grade 4 in English	Grade 5 in English	Grade 5 in English
Australian University Foundation Program	60% in English	70% in English	73% in English	75% in English
Certificate IV – Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 4 from an Australian Higher Education Provider or Registered Training Organisation (RTO)	Certificate IV in a cognate or relevant discipline	Certificate IV in a cognate or relevant discipline (undergraduate courses only)	N/A	N/A
Diploma – AQF Level 5 or above from an Australian Higher Education provider or RTO	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma
Bachelor – AQF Level 7 or higher from an Australian Higher Education provider	Bachelor	Bachelor	Bachelor	Bachelor
DUELI EAP	EAP 3 60%	EAP 4 60%	EAP 4 70%	EAP 4 75%
Deakin College approved pathway program completed no more than 2 years prior to commencement in a Deakin undergraduate course	Foundation program or Diploma	Foundation program or Diploma	Foundation program or Diploma	Foundation program or Diploma
Deakin College approved pathway program completed no more than 2 years prior to commencement in a Deakin postgraduate course	N/A	MQP or MQP Extended	N/A	N/A
Study at an institution in an English-speaking country where English is the language of instruction, completed more than 2 years prior to commencement at Deakin. For entry to Deakin Associate Degree programs only: Study at an institution in an English-speaking country where English is the language of instruction	Entire senior secondary schooling (years 7 to 12 or equivalent) and/or tertiary studies conducted in English	Entire senior secondary schooling (years 7 to 12 or equivalent) and/or tertiary studies conducted in English	Entire senior secondary schooling (years 7 to 12 or equivalent) and/or tertiary studies conducted in English	Entire senior secondary schooling (years 7 to 12 or equivalent) and/or tertiary studies conducted in English and ongoing residence since graduation

EVIDENCE	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D
Successfully completed qualification from an institution within a non English-speaking country, but where English is the language of instruction and assessment	Bachelor degree (equivalent to AQF level 7) or higher	Bachelor degree (equivalent to AQF level 7) or higher	Bachelor degree (equivalent to AQF level 7) or higher	Bachelor degree (equivalent to AQF level 7) or higher
PARTIAL QUALIFICATIONS				
Study at an institution in an English-speaking country where English is the language of instruction, completed no more than 2 years prior to commencement at Deakin	1 academic year of full-time tertiary studies or equivalent or higher	1 academic year of full-time study at Bachelor degree level equivalent or higher with a minimum WAM of 50	2 academic years of full-time study at Bachelor degree level equivalent or higher with a minimum WAM of 60	2 academic years of full-time study at Bachelor degree level equivalent or higher with a minimum WAM of 65
Study at an institution within a non English-speaking country, but where English is the language of instruction and assessment for the whole institution, completed no more than 5 year prior to commencement at Deakin	1 academic year of full-time study at Bachelor degree level equivalent or higher with a minimum WAM of 50	2 academic years of full-time study at Bachelor degree level equivalent or higher with a minimum WAM of 55	2 academic years of full-time study at Bachelor degree level equivalent or higher with a minimum WAM of 60	2 academic years of full-time study at Bachelor degree level equivalent or higher with a minimum WAM of 65

Part B - English-speaking experience

(20) Applicants may demonstrate that they meet minimum English language proficiency requirements through test results:

EVIDENCE	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D
Written English STAT	Overall 140	Overall 145	overall 150	Overall 150
DUELI test	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.0

(21) With the exception of applicants with recent secondary education, applicants who have lived or worked in an English-speaking country may demonstrate that they meet minimum English language proficiency requirements through evidence of residence or employment:

EVIDENCE	BANDS A-D
Residence	5 years ongoing residence in a recognised English-speaking country and able to provide evidence of proficient written and verbal English
Employment	5 years in an occupation requiring proficient written and verbal English, in a recognised English-speaking country

(22) Recognised English-speaking countries include:

- a. Australia
- b. Canada

- c. Fiji
- d. Ireland
- e. Kenya
- f. New Zealand
- g. Papua New Guinea
- h. Samoa
- i. Singapore
- j. Solomon Islands
- k. South Africa
- l. United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)
- m. United States of America
- n. Zambia.

(23) Evidence of residence or employment is assessed on a case by case basis, and may include but is not limited to:

- a. a passport
- b. an interview
- c. residency/citizenship documentation
- d. supporting statements from employers, community leaders, sports coaches, or professional practitioners who know the applicant. Supporting statements must include current contact details to allow for verification.

Part C - International equivalents

(24) The following table sets out international equivalents for demonstrating minimum English language proficiency requirements. Applicants must provide evidence of meeting one of the following international equivalents in the required band.

EVIDENCE	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D
Academic IELTS; or IELTS indicator online test**	overall score of 6.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component of test	overall score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component of test	overall score of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in each component of test	overall score of 7.0 with a minimum of 7.0 in each component of test
GCE A-Level	C grade in the General Paper or C Grade in a Humanities and Social Sciences subject at Higher 1 (H1) or Higher 2 (H2 level)	C grade in the General Paper or C Grade in a Humanities and Social Sciences subject at Higher 1 (H1) or Higher 2 (H2 level)	B grade in the General Paper or B Grade in a Humanities and Social Sciences subject at Higher 1 (H1) or Higher 2 (H2 level)	B grade in the General Paper or B Grade in a Humanities and Social Sciences subject at Higher 1 (H1) or Higher 2 (H2 level)
CPE	169, no band less than 169	176, no band less than 169	185, no band less than 176	185, no band less than 185
CAE	169, no band less than 169	176, no band less than 169	185, no band less than 176	185, no band less than 185
OET (for Health related award course entry only); or OET@Home**	Overall C	Overall C+	Overall B (equivalent to an IELTS 7-7.5 range)	Overall B (equivalent to an IELTS 7-7.5 range)
PTE Academic	50 No less than 50 in each skill	58 No less than 50 in each skill	65 No less than 58 in each skill	65 No less than 65 in each skill
TOEFL IBT; or TOEFL	69	79	94	94

EVIDENCE	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D
Special Home Edition**	Writing 21	Writing 21	Writing 24	Writing 27
Paper-based TOEFL	550 Writing 4.5	577 Writing 4.5	600 Writing 5	600 Writing 5
European Study Abroad and Exchange student/programs	Overall grade of C1	Overall grade of C1	N/A	N/A
Canadian Pre-University Program (Ontario Secondary School Diploma)	50% in either final year English subjects ENG4U or ENG4C	50% in either final year English subjects ENG4U or ENG4C	60% in either final year English subjects ENG4U or ENG4C	60% in either final year English subjects ENG4U or ENG4C
Danish Upper Secondary School Leaving Examinations (Studentereksamen)	Grade 7 in English A or Grade 10 in English B	Grade 7 in English A or Grade 10 in English B	Grade 7 in English A or Grade 10 in English B	Grade 7 in English A or Grade 10 in English B
Finnish Upper Secondary School Diploma (Lukionpaastotodistus)	Grade 8 in English A or English (Advanced) Matriculation Exam (Ylioppilastutkinto) Pass in English (Advanced) STABEX students only: Grade 7 in English A or English (Advanced)	STABEX students only: Grade 8 in English A or English (Advanced)	N/A	N/A
German Fachhochschulereife Abitur and DAAD	Fachhochschulereife with at least 3 in English; or Abitur with at least 7 in English or minimum of either: B in all four bands of the DAAD Language Certificate or B2 (4 star) in all three bands of the DAAD Language Certificate	Fachhochschulereife with at least 3 in English; or Abitur with at least 7 in English or minimum of either: B in all four bands of the DAAD Language Certificate or B2 (4 star) in all three bands of the DAAD Language Certificate	Fachhochschulereife with at least 2 in English; or Abitur with at least 9 in English or minimum of either: A in all four bands of the DAAD Language Certificate or C1 (5 star) in all three bands of the DAAD Language Certificate	Fachhochschulereife with at least 2 in English; or Abitur with at least 9 in English or minimum of either: A in all four bands of the DAAD language Certificate or C1 (5 star) in all three bands of the DAAD Language Certificate
Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)	English level 3 with no component level less than 3	English level 4 with no component level less than 3	N/A	N/A
All India Senior School Certificate (AISSCE)*	60% in English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indian School Certificate (ISC-Year 12)*	60% in English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indian Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)*	65% in English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indian Pre-University Examination Certificate awarded by a university after one year of study beyond Secondary School Certificate (SSC-Class X) in an affiliated College*	65% in English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tamil Nadu Higher School Certificate*	120/200 or more in English	N/A	N/A	N/A

EVIDENCE	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D
Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or O-Level equivalent	Minimum C; and completion of 2 semesters of tertiary education where English is the language of instruction and assessment with an overall average of 60%	Minimum C; and completion of 2 semesters of tertiary education where English is the language of instruction and assessment with an overall average of 65%	N/A	N/A
Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM)	C in the STPM 914 English language or 920 English literature examinations	C+ in the STPM 914 English language or 920 English literature examinations	N/A	N/A
Dutch Diploma of Pre-University Education (Diploma Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs)	Grade 7 in final year English	Grade 8 in final year English	N/A	N/A
Norwegian Certificate of Completion of Upper Secondary School Examinations (Vitnemål)	Grade 4 in English	Grade 4 in English	Grade 7 in final year English	Grade 7 in final year English
Swedish Upper Secondary School Leaving Certificate (Slutbetyg från Gymnasieskolan)	C in English	C in English	C in English	C in English

*Qualification must be completed no more than 2 years prior to commencement at Deakin

**Online English language tests for applicants who are unable to sit standard tests due to public health concerns relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 6 - Definitions

(25) For the purpose of this Procedure:

- a. international applicant: a person who is not a citizen or permanent resident of Australia, is not a citizen of New Zealand or a person holding an Australian permanent refugee, humanitarian or protection visa. Temporary permanent residents are considered international applicants.
- b. primary language: means the language primarily used for reading, writing, listening, and speaking and the language known best and most comfortable with.
- c. tertiary studies: also referred to as post-secondary studies, is the educational level following secondary education. Tertiary studies includes both higher education (including universities) and vocational education and training (VET).
- d. recent secondary education: means completion of secondary education (Year 12 or overseas equivalent) in the current year or within the previous two years.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	
A ² I ²	Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute
AE	Faculty of Arts and Education
BL	Faculty of Business and Law
CAE	Cambridge English Advanced

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	
CPE	Cambridge English Proficiency
DUELI EAP	Deakin University English Language Institute English for Academic Purposes Program
HEALTH	Faculty of Health
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
IISRI	Institute for Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation
OET	Occupational English Test
PTE	Pearson Test of English
SEBE	Faculty of Science, Engineering and Built Environment
TOEFL IBT	Test of English as a Foreign Language (Internet-based Test)

Status and Details

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