

PGP 1.1.3 English Language Assessment Criteria

Summary

Students whose first language is not English are required to supply IELTS academic test results (6.5 overall with 7 in writing and no band less than 6). Exceptions to these criteria may be made and are outlined below. TOEFL equivalents for the IELTS results are detailed below.

Purpose

This protocol outlines the processes for the assessment of the English language criteria where AUT's preferred testing system, IELTS, is not provided.

Scope

This protocol is to be used when assessing English language criteria for applicants to the Master of Philosophy or doctoral programmes.

Application¹

The University's preferred English Language test is an IELTS academic test. The normal requirement is that the student supplies an IELTS academic test result and attain the following:

Doctoral Programmes	6.5 overall with 7 in writing and no band less than 6. Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences require 6.5 in writing
Master of Philosophy	6.5 overall with no band less than 6.

Where this is not provided the following alternatives may be applied.

Where the full IELTS criteria are not met (within 0.5 of the required score)

For doctoral programmes; where an applicant does not meet the specified scores but is within 0.5 of the required band scores they may be admitted to the programme with the condition that they meet the required scores prior to enrolment. In exceptional circumstances, a faculty may put a case forward to the University Postgraduate Research Board (UPRB) for the condition to be met prior to confirmation of candidature. This condition does not apply to Engineering and Computing and Mathematical Sciences.

Other Recognised Tests of English Language Proficiency

Other English language testing systems may be accepted as evidence of English Language Proficiency provided the equivalence to the required IELTS tests has been achieved. Please refer to the AUT Website for the equivalence table.

<https://www.aut.ac.nz/study/applying/entry-requirements/english-language-requirements>

GIE Programme

The AUT GIE (General English/IELTS/English for Academic Purposes) course results will not normally be considered sufficient for entry to doctoral programmes without additional evidence of English language capability; such as an IELTS examination result.

¹ From 2023 the university will no longer accept the IELTS Indicator or TOEFL Home Edition tests for entry to doctoral programmes. The in-person IELTS and TOEFL (iBT) tests will be accepted.

TOEFL

Where an applicant has undertaken TOEFL (Internet Based Testing -iBT) testing the results will be compared against the IELTS grading system using the overall results scale for each of the testing formats.

Where the applicant uses the internet based test they will be required to achieve a minimum of **22** in writing with no sub-band lower than **18**. Applicants within one or two points of the writing minimum may be considered by the Board.

Previous study in English

IELTS is required unless applicants have studied a postgraduate qualification from a recognised institution where the main language of instruction and assessment for that qualification was English which was awarded within the last 3 years. If it was awarded more than 3 years ago, evidence of continued use of English will be required. The waiver of the requirement to undertake IELTS will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Faculty Postgraduate Office. Applications for countries and institutions other than those stated on the NARIC website will be considered case-by-case and supporting evidence may be requested.

It is important to note that the University has the right to request that an IELTS test be undertaken.

Outcome

When one of the above criteria is demonstrated then the English language criteria may be considered to have been met.

Where one of the criteria above is not met then admission will not normally be granted.

Review

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July 2009

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- V 1.0 July 2009
- V 1.1 November 2014
- V 1.2 December 2015
- V 1.3 June 2017
- V 1.4 November 2019 Update
- V 1.5 May 2020
- V1.6 May 2022
- V1.7 September 2022

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