



# English Language Requirements

You may be asked to provide evidence of your English proficiency to study at UNSW depending on your educational background and citizenship.

English language skills are vitally important for coping with lectures, tutorials, assignments and examinations and this is why UNSW requires a minimum English language competency for enrolment.

If English is not your first language, you will need to provide proof of your English proficiency before you will be given an offer to study at UNSW. You can do this by providing evidence that you meet one or more of the following criteria:

- English Language Tests and University English Courses
- Prior study in the medium of English
- Other qualifications
- English Waivers

## English Language Tests and University English Preparation Courses

UNSW recognises a number of English Language tests and English Preparation Courses which can be undertaken to meet the University's English language requirements. These are set out in the following table, together with the minimum results required.

The test or English course must have been undertaken no more than **two years** prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW. Your English test must be dated on or after the 1st of January (two years prior) for Semester One/Term 1 commencement or the 1st of June (two years prior) for Semester Two/Term 3 commencement.

Applicable to which program/s	IELTS Academic version only	TOEFL Internet-based Test (iBT)	TOEFL Paper-based Test (PBT)	Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic	UNSW Institute of Languages University English Entry Course (UEEC)	Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)	Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)	ANU College Access Program
All programs except where specified below	6.5 overall (min. 6.0 in each subtest)	90 overall (min. 23 in writing, 22 in reading, listening and speaking)	577 overall (min. 5.0 in TWE)	64 overall (min. 54 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of C+ and a minimum grade of C in the writing component.	176 overall (min.169 in each subtest)	180 overall (min.180 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum of 70% overall.
All Law undergraduate & postgraduate coursework programs and all Business coursework programs (excluding UNSW Canberra)	7.0 overall (min. 6.0 in each subtest)	94 overall (min. 25 in writing, 23 in reading, listening and speaking)	589 overall (min. 5.0 in TWE)	65 overall (min. 54 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of B- and a minimum grade of C+ in the writing component.	185 overall (min.169 in each subtest)	185 overall (min.180 in each subtest)	Not Accepted
All Business and Law postgraduate research programs (excluding UNSW Canberra)	7.0 overall (min. 7.0 in writing, 6.5 in other subtests)	96 overall (min. 27 in writing, 23 in reading, listening and speaking)	589 overall (min. 5.5 in TWE)	65 overall (min. 58 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of B- and a minimum grade of C+ in the writing component.	185 overall (min.176 in each subtest)	185 overall (min.180 in each subtest)	Not Accepted
All Medicine undergraduate programs*	7.0 overall (min. 6.0 in each subtest)	94 overall (min. 25 in writing, 23 in reading, listening and speaking)	589 overall (min. 5.0 in TWE)	65 overall (min. 54 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of B- and a minimum grade of C+ in the writing component.	185 overall (min.169 in each subtest)	185 overall (min.180 in each subtest)	Not Accepted

All Built Environment undergraduate, postgraduate & Research programs*	7.0 overall (min. 6.0 in each subtest)	94 overall (min. 25 in writing, 23 in reading, listening and speaking)	589 overall (min. 5.0 in TWE)	65 overall (min. 54 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of B- and a minimum grade of C+ in the writing component.	185 overall (min.169 in each subtest)	185 overall (min.180 in each subtest)	Not Accepted
Bachelor of Education (all programs) *	7.5 overall (min. 7.0 in each subtest)	102 overall (min. 27 in writing, 24 in reading and listening, 23 in speaking)	610 overall (min. 6.0 in TWE)	73 overall (min. 65 in each subtest)	Not accepted	191 overall (min.169 in each subtest)	191 overall (min.180 in each subtest)	Not Accepted
Master of Teaching (Primary and Secondary)	7.5 overall (min. 7.0 in writing and reading, 8.0 in speaking and listening)	102 overall (min. 27 in writing, 24 in reading, 28 in listening, 26 in speaking)	610 overall (min. 6.0 in TWE)	73 overall (min. 65 in writing and reading, 79 in listening and speaking)	Not Accepted	191 overall (min. 185 in writing and reading, 200 in speaking and listening)	191 overall (min. 185 in writing and reading, 200 in speaking and listening)	Not Accepted
Master of Psychology (Clinical, Forensic & Organisational) including combined PhD/Master	7.0 overall (min. 7.0 in each subtest)	94 overall (min. 27 in writing, 24 in reading and listening, 23 in speaking)	Not Accepted	65 overall (min. 65 in each subtest)	Not Accepted	Not Accepted	Not Accepted	Not Accepted

\*Effective for applications received after 1 June 2018 for commencement in Term 1, 2019 and onwards.

## Prior study<sup>4</sup>

### Senior Secondary Studies

If you have successfully completed an assessable Senior Secondary qualification from an English-speaking country<sup>1</sup> you do not have to prove proficiency in English provided the qualification was:

- taught and examined in English
- completed no more than **two years** prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW

### Post Secondary or Tertiary Studies

If you have successfully completed an assessable degree (minimum length 3-years) at a recognised university where the sole language of instruction and assessment was English and you are a citizen of an English-speaking country<sup>1</sup>, you may not be required to undertake a language test if you can provide a statement or certificate issued by the Registrar (or equivalent) confirming that the sole language of instruction and assessment of your degree was English.

- The statement or certificate must be on official headed paper and must be the original document.
- You will also need to provide proof of citizenship with your application.

If you are not a citizen of an English-speaking country, but have successfully completed full-time study in an assessable qualification at a recognised university where the sole language of instruction and assessment was English, you may not be required to undertake a language test if you can provide a statement or certificate issued by the Registrar (or equivalent) confirming:

#### Applicable to which program/s

#### Minimum Requirement

All programs except where specified below

At least **one year** of full-time study. The study must have been completed no more than two years prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW.

All Law undergraduate, postgraduate coursework and research programs

At least **eighteen (18) months** of full-time study. The study must have been completed no more than two years prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW.

All Business postgraduate coursework and research programs

Master of Psychology (Clinical, Forensic & Organisational) including combined PhD/Master

Master of Teaching (Primary and Secondary)

All Medicine undergraduate programs. \*

Bachelor of Education (all programs) \*

All Built Environment undergraduate, postgraduate and research programs \*

All Medicine undergraduate programs. \*

All Built Environment undergraduate, postgraduate and research programs \*

At least **eighteen (18) months** of full-time study. The study must have been completed no more than two years prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW. \*

\*Effective for applications received after 1 June 2018 for commencement in Term 1, 2019 and onwards.

- The statement or certificate must be on official headed paper, and must be the original document.

Alternatively, if your studies were undertaken more than two years prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW you may meet UNSW's English Language Proficiency requirements provided you have satisfactorily completed a degree or other assessable post-secondary qualification of a minimum duration of three full-time years (or equivalent) at an institution where the sole language of instruction and assessment was English, and;

Applicable to	Minimum Requirement
Non-UNSW degrees or 3-year degrees	<p>You have resided in Australia or other predominately English-speaking country since graduation.</p> <p>If you have not resided in Australia or other predominately English-speaking country since graduation, you will need to demonstrate directly relevant work experience in an English-speaking country or where the sole language used for Business was English for at least <b>four out of the seven</b> years prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW.</p>
UNSW degrees or 4-year degrees	<p>You have resided in Australia or other predominately English-speaking country since graduation.</p> <p>If you have not resided in Australia or other predominately English-speaking country since graduation, you will need to demonstrate directly relevant work experience in an English-speaking country or where the sole language used for Business was English for at least <b>three out of the seven</b> years prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW.</p>

You will need to provide proof of residency or employment letters with your application for admission.

## Other Qualifications <sup>5</sup>

In addition to the English Tests and University English Preparation Courses and Prior Study outlined above, UNSW also accepts a number of assessable academic qualifications as meeting the English language requirements. These qualifications, together with the minimum results required, are listed in the table below.

All qualifications must have been undertaken no more than **two years** prior to the year of commencement of study at UNSW except for qualifications from Denmark, Sweden or Norway, which must be undertaken no more than **four years** prior to the year of commencement of study at UNSW.

Qualification	Minimum Requirement
	<p>C+ in Academic English</p> <p>Please note that the English language entry requirements are higher for the following programs:</p>
UNSW Foundation Studies	<p>Education, Psychology (B+)</p> <p>Law, Medicine, Medical Science, Optometry, Psychological Science (B)</p> <p>Built Environment (B)*</p>
University Preparation Program (UPP) &	Successful completion of the program

## UNSW Preparation Program (UNSW Prep)

All UG Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

Grade C+ or 70% in English

Please note that ANU Foundation students need to complete Advanced Academic English and UMELB Foundations students need to complete English for Academic Purposes.

## Foundation Program from an Australian Group of Eight (Go8) University

The English language entry requirements are higher for the following programs:

Education, Psychology (B+ or 85%)

Law, Medicine, Optometry, Psychological Science (B or 80%)

All Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

Completed AQF Diploma or completed AQF Advanced Diploma

## Australian TAFE / Private Provider Studies

All Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

Grade 7 in English in the final year (English B or English A)

## Danish Studentereksamen or Higher Preparatory Examination

All Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

Grade of C1 in English Core

## All India Senior School Certificate - [CBSE]

All Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

70% in English

## Indian School Certificate - [ICSE]

All Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

Grade 4 in the First Year of Upper Secondary English (if this is the only completed English subject); or average grade of 4 in all completed Upper Secondary English subjects

## Norwegian Certificate of Upper Secondary Education

All Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

Grade D in English in the final year (English 6/English Course B)

## Swedish Secondary School Leaving Certificate

All Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

Grade 3 in Advanced Level English (LF)

## German Abitur

All Law programs: Not accepted

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment programs: Not accepted \*

Level 4 in English Language

## Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)

All Law UG programs: 5\* in English Language or Literature in English

All Medicine, Education &amp; Built Environment UG programs: 5\* in English Language or Literature in English\*

## United Kingdom GCE A Levels

A minimum of grade C in a Humanities-based subject at an A2 level or a minimum of grade C in

the General Paper at an A2 level.

All Law programs: A grade in Humanities or English (A2) level or an A in English Language & Literature or English Language at an (AS) level

All Medicine, Education & Built Environment programs: A grade in Humanities or English (A2) level or an A in English Language & Literature or English Language at an (AS) level \*

C grade in a Humanities\*\* Higher 1 (H1) or Higher 2 (H2) subject or C grade in the General Paper

Singapore - Cambridge GCE A Levels

All Law programs: A in English Language and Linguistics

All Medicine, Education & Built Environment programs: A in English Language and Linguistics \*

Grade 4 or above in one of the following IB English courses:  
English A: language and literature at standard or higher level; or  
English A: literature at standard or higher level; or  
English B at higher level

International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB)

All Law programs: Grade 6 in IB English A at Higher Level or Grade 7 in IB English A at Standard Level

All Medicine, Education & Built Environment programs: Grade 6 in IB English A at Higher Level or Grade 7 in IB English A at Standard Level\*

C pass in 920 English

Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM)

All Law programs: A in Literature (920)

All Medicine, Education & Built Environment programs: A in Literature (920)\*

\*\*Humanities - an Arts or Social Science subject that is conducted in English and requires substantial reading, as well as essay writing, in written examinations. Humanities subjects: Ancient History/Classical studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Citizenship Studies, Communication Studies, Creative Writing, Critical and Contextual Studies, Drama and Theatre, Economics, English (English Language/English Literature), Film Studies, General Studies, Global Perspectives and Research, Government and Politics, History, History of Art, Humanities, Journalism, Law, Media Studies (Media is not a humanities subject), Philosophy, Religious Studies, Social Policies, Sociology, World Development.

\*Effective for applications received after 1 June 2018 for commencement in Term 1, 2019 and onwards.

## English Waivers<sup>5</sup>

If you are not able to demonstrate that you meet one or more of the criteria above, but believe that your English language proficiency is of a comparable level, you can apply in writing to the respective Admissions Office (see contact details below) for consideration of a waiver. You will be required to justify the request and provide evidence that you meet a combination of **two or more** of the conditions outlined below:

### 1. English Language Test scores and University English Courses

#### Between 2 and 5 years ago

You must meet the minimum requirements as outlined above in English Language Tests and University English Courses.

#### Within the last 2 years

Applicable to which program/s	IELTS Academic version only	TOEFL Internet-based Test (iBT)	TOEFL Paper-based Test (PBT)	Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic	UNSW Institute of Languages University English Entry Course (UEEC)	Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)	Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
All programs except where specified below	6.0 overall (min. 5.5 in each subtest)	79 overall (min. 21 in writing, 12 in reading, 11 in listening, 17 in speaking)	500 overall (min. 4.5 in TWE)	50 overall (min. 42 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of C and a minimum grade of C- in the writing component.	169 overall (min.162 in each subtest)	N/A
All Law undergraduate & postgraduate coursework programs	6.5 overall (min. 6.0	90 overall (min. 23 in writing, 22 in	577 overall (min. 5.0 in TWE)	58 overall (min. 50 in	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of C+ and a	176 overall (min.169 in	180 overall (min.180 in each subtest)

and all Business coursework programs (excluding UNSW Canberra)	in each subtest)	reading, listening and speaking)		each subtest)	minimum grade of C in the writing component.	each subtest)	
All Business and Law postgraduate research programs (excluding UNSW Canberra)	6.5 overall (min. 6.5 in writing, 6.0 in other subtests)	90 overall (min. 24 in writing, 22 in reading, listening and speaking)	577 overall (min. 5.0 in TWE)	58 overall (min. 58 in writing, 50 in other subtests)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of C+ and a minimum grade of C+ in the writing component.	176 overall (min.176 in writing, 169 in other subtests)	180 overall (min.180 in each subtest)
All Medicine undergraduate programs*	6.5 overall (min. 6.0 in each subtest)	90 overall (min. 23 in writing, 22 in reading, listening and speaking)	577 overall (min. 5.0 in TWE)	58 overall (min. 50 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of C+ and a minimum grade of C in the writing component.	176 overall (min.169 in each subtest)	180 overall (min.180 in each subtest)
All Built Environment undergraduate, postgraduate & Research programs*	6.5 overall (min. 6.0 in each subtest)	90 overall (min. 23 in writing, 22 in reading, listening and speaking)	577 overall (min. 5.0 in TWE)	58 overall (min. 50 in each subtest)	Successful completion with a minimum overall grade of C+ and a minimum grade of C in the writing component.	176 overall (min.169 in each subtest)	180 overall (min.180 in each subtest)
Master of Teaching (Primary and Secondary) and Bachelor of Education (all programs)	English waivers are not available for admission to the Master of Teaching (Secondary) and Bachelor of Education						
Master of Psychology (Clinical, Forensic & Organisational) including combined PhD/Master	English waivers are not available for admission to the Master of Psychology (including combined PhD/Master)						

\*Effective for applications received after 1 June 2018 for commencement in Term 1, 2019 and onwards.

## 2. Directly relevant work experience for at least the last 2 years

You must have participated in directly relevant work experience (or equivalent discipline practice) using English. This indicates that you have been immersed in the language conventions, vocabulary and practices of the discipline, which are not tested by the English language proficiency tests listed in the table above, but should serve as appropriate preparation if admitted to study at UNSW.

You will be required to submit a letter from your employer on company letterhead, which states:

- The position title
- The duties undertaken
- The level of English spoken i.e. how was English used (written, verbal etc) and to what level was English used

^ For applicants applying to **AGSM @ UNSW** programs, directly relevant work experience in an English-speaking country or workplace where the sole language of business was English for a minimum of **five out of seven** years prior to the commencement of your program, will also be accepted.

You will be required to submit a letter from your employer on company letterhead for any employment not covered by the referee letters submitted with your AGSM application, which states:

- The position title
- The duties undertaken
- The level of English spoken i.e. how was English used (written, verbal etc) and to what level was English used

^ Effective for applications received after 5 July 2017 for commencement in Semester One 2018 and onwards. Applicants who meet this criteria will not need to satisfy a second English waiver criteria.

## 3. Successful prior study for minimum of one year full-time completed between 2 and 5 years ago

You must have successfully completed at least one year of full-time study in an assessable qualification at a university or other post-secondary educational institution where the sole language of instruction and assessment was English and provide a statement or certificate issued by the institution's Registrar (or equivalent) confirming this. The statement or certificate must be on official headed paper.

## 4. Residency in an English-speaking country for at least 5 years

You must be able to provide evidence that they have lived in Australia, or other predominantly English-speaking country<sup>1</sup>, for a period of 5 years or more, immediately prior to the commencement of your studies at UNSW. During residency, you should have been involved in activities that exercise English language skills including both general and academic proficiency (such as community involvement etc) and you will need to provide references showing how these skills were developed. You will also need to provide copies of passports and/or visas to prove duration of residency.

#### **5. NAATI accredited Professional Interpreter or Professional Translator (formerly known as Level 3 accredited)**

You must be able to provide evidence that you have current valid National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) accreditation as a Professional Interpreter or Professional Translator.

#### **6. Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) - AGSM programs only**

Minimum overall GMAT score of 550 with a minimum score of 25 in Verbal, 35 in Quantitative and 4.0 in the Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA), completed within 5 years prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW.

#### **7. Overseas qualified doctors registered with the Medical Board of Australia**

You must be an overseas qualified doctor/health professional and hold current registration with the Medical Board of Australia and be currently employed in the health system within Australia. A CV and proof of current registration with the Medical Board of Australia will be required

The procedure for granting waivers of the English language proficiency requirements will require the Program Authority to justify the waiver in writing, and approval from the Faculty's Dean or nominee. The Director, Student Services and Systems or Director, Graduate Research School, or his/her nominee, will consider each recommendation on the grounds of equity and, if appropriate, ESOS compliance.

When waiver recommendations include a requirement to undertake English language improvement or support, the Program Authority is responsible for costs associated with this improvement or support, whether this is provided by the Learning Centre, UNSWIL, or the Faculty's own program.

### Conditional Offers <sup>2,3</sup>

If you provide an English test result that doesn't meet the minimum standard required by the University, or you don't provide any evidence of English language proficiency, you will be assessed for eligibility for admission and if successful will be issued with a Conditional Offer of admission. A full Offer of admission will be issued only when English language proficiency requirements have been met.

### Conditional Package Offers <sup>5</sup>

*International applicants only*

A Conditional Package offer may be issued to international applicants who have met the academic entry requirement for admission, but whose IELTS does not meet the English language proficiency requirement. If you have achieved a minimum Academic IELTS overall score of 5.0, you may be considered for a Conditional Package Offer.

NOTE: Package offers for applicants holding a TOEFL test may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The package offer is valid for the UNSW Institute of Languages University English Entry Course (UEEC) only and is subject to acceptance by the UNSW Institute of Languages. A package offer enables applicants to apply for a student visa for the duration of both the English language program and the UNSW studies.

**Please note that due to quota restrictions, package offers may not be available for all programs each semester or may require a higher minimum IELTS overall score.**

### Visa Requirements for International Applicants

Regardless of UNSW's English Language requirements, international applicants should be aware that they must still satisfy the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) English language requirements for visa applications. Students who are not eligible for Simplified Student Visa Framework arrangements must present 'a specified English language test' in order to be granted a student visa for university level study.

Details of the DIBP requirements, Simplified Student Visa Framework processing arrangements and the Assessment level of countries can be found at [www.immi.gov.au/students/](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/)

***This policy is effective for entry to UNSW programs from Semester 2, 2017 onwards.***

<sup>1</sup> American Samoa, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Canada, Fiji, Gibraltar, Ghana, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, The Gambia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland), United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

<sup>2</sup> Not available to domestic Undergraduate applicants.

<sup>3</sup> Not available to Postgraduate coursework programs offered via UAC.

<sup>4</sup> Not available for admission to the Master of Psychology (including combined PhD/Master).

<sup>5</sup> Not available for admission to the Master of Psychology (including combined PhD/Master) or Master of Teaching (Primary and Secondary).

## Further Information

### Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework Programs

**Contact:** UNSW Admissions Office

Tel: +61 (2) 9385 3656

[Submit an enquiry](#)

### Postgraduate Research Programs

**Contact:** UNSW Graduate Research School

Tel: +61 (2) 9385 5500/5502

Email: [enquiries.grs@unsw.edu.au](mailto:enquiries.grs@unsw.edu.au)

## Test centres

### Test centres for IELTS

IELTS, the International English Language Testing System, is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication. It is the preferred test of English for students intending to study in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom and covers the four language skills - listening, reading, writing and speaking.

IELTS Academic Module is recognised widely as a language requirement for entry to all courses in further and higher education and assesses whether a candidate is ready to study or train in the medium of English at an undergraduate or postgraduate level.

[Click here to find an IELTS Centre near you.](#)

UNSW Institute of Languages is an approved IELTS testing centre.

### UNSW Sydney Test Centre

IELTS Administrator

UNSW Institute of Languages

223 Anzac Parade

KENSINGTON NSW 2033

Tel: +61 (2) 9385 6729

[Submit an Enquiry](#)

### Test centres for TOEFL

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is a test that measures the ability of candidates to understand and use English to the level that is required in a university setting. You can take the Internet-based Test (iBT) or the Paper-based Test (PBT), depending on which format is offered at your test centre. You can get further information by visiting the website [www.toefl.com](http://www.toefl.com)

## UNSW Institute of Languages (UNSWIL)

The UNSW Institute of Languages (UNSWIL) offers comprehensive general and academic English language preparation programs. Academic English courses enable a smooth transition to successful university study. These programs cater for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Institute provides the University English Entry Course (UEEC) .

### University English Entry Course (UEEC)

Tel: +61 (2) 9385 5396

[Submit an Enquiry](#)

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Authorised by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students), UNSW

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