

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. Applicants must normally have taken the IELTS test within two years of their application to the programme. 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 ²
Master of Philosophy	6.5 overall with no band less than 6.

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 the faculty may be able to provide a conditional offer letter, however, an applicant may only be admitted to the programme once the full IELTS criteria are met.

IELTS One Skill Retake

An IELTS One Skill Retake allows students to reattempt one of the four skill bands from each complete IELTS test (Listening, Reading Writing or Speaking). Students are required to attempt the one-band retake within 60 days from the full IELTS test.

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>

AUT Academic English Course

The AUT Academic English Course (formerly GIE) results are currently being piloted for entry to the PhD programme until December 2024. The normal entry criteria will be applied for doctoral applicants and the AUT Academic English

¹ From May 2024 the university will accept the IELTS Indicator or TOEFL Home Edition tests for entry to doctoral programmes except for programmes where professional or accreditation requirements specify IELTS which will remain unchanged.

² This refers to the discipline areas of Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, not just those within the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences.

results would be deemed equivalent to IELTS (B+ overall, A in writing, and no band lower than a B (Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences only require a 6.5 Writing Band under IELTS; B+ under AUT Academic English).

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 UPRB (or nominee). 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

Original Approval Date

July 2009

Version Approvals

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
V1.8	June 2023
V1.9	January 2024
V1.10	May 2024
V1.11	May 2025

Review Date

June 2027

Effective Date

June 2017