

English Language Proficiency Requirements

Listed below are the English language proficiency requirements for entry **for domestic and international applicants** to programs (with the exception of enabling programs) at the University of Newcastle.

The University of Newcastle has developed a [visual representation](#) of how to decide if you meet the **English Language Requirements for Admission** – you will need to read that document in conjunction with the below tables.

Applicants must provide evidence of English language proficiency through one of the following methods:

1. Minimum proficiency test results as outlined in Tables 1a to 1c below. English language test scores must be less than 2 years old at the date of application to the University of Newcastle.

For other English tests accepted by the University, please refer to **Table 5 - English language skills tests concordance table** to convert the IELTS requirement to TOEFL PB (Paper-based), TOEFL IBT (Internet-based test), PTE (Pearsons Test of English), Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) and Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE).

Table 1a - English Language Proficiency Requirements for Undergraduate Programs

Faculty	Program	IELTS	
		Overall score	Section minimum+
All	Standard requirement	6.0	6.0
<i>Different requirements apply to the following undergraduate programs:</i>			
Business and Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and associated combined programs 	7.0	6.0
Education and Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Communication (11496) 	6.5	6.0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) (12317) • Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) (12318) 	7.0	7.0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Education – all 3 programs (40105, 40107, 40106) • Bachelor of Education (Honours) – 3 programs (40109, 40110, 40108) 	7.5	7.0 - R,W 8.0 - L, S
Health and Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) (11691) • Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Honours) (all 3 streams) (40002, 40010, 40011) • Bachelor of Medicine (10379) • Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine – Joint Medical Program (40046/40047) • Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) (12389) • Bachelor of Midwifery (12200) • Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) (12330) • Bachelor of Nursing (11725) • Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) (10954) 	7.0	7.0
Health and Medicine (cont)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics (Honours) (12339) • Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) (12338) • Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy (12390) • Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) (12328) • Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) (12337) • Bachelor of Podiatry (11692) 	7.0	7.0
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Psychological Science (40099) • Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)(40100) 	7.0	7.0

+IELTS, IBT sections and PTE Section minimums are: L-Listening, R-Reading, S-Speaking, W-Writing

Table 1b - English Language Proficiency Requirements for Postgraduate Coursework Programs

Faculty	Program	IELTS	
		Overall score	Section minimum+
All	Standard requirement	6.5	6.0
Faculty	Degree Program	IELTS	
<i>Different requirements apply for the following postgraduate programs:</i>			
Business and Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juris Doctor/Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice* • Master of Laws (12333) 	7.0	6.5
Education and Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Master of Teaching (Primary) (11714) ☒ Master of Teaching (Secondary) (11715) 	7.5	7.0 - R,W 8.0 - L, S
	•		
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Clinical Psychology (12380) • Master of Professional Psychology (40117) • Master of Professional Psychology (Clinical Psychology) (40118) 	7.0	7.0

+IELTS, IBT sections and PTE Section minimums are: L-Listening, R-Reading, S-Speaking, W-Writing
*For students seeking admission to this program for 2018 onwards.

Table 1c - English Language Proficiency Requirements for Research Higher Degree Programs including Higher Doctorate Awards

Faculty	Program	IELTS	
		Overall score	Section minimum+
All	Standard requirement	6.5	6.0
<i>Different requirements apply for research programs at the following faculties/schools:</i>			
Health and Medicine	All Research Higher Degree Programs offered by the School of Health Sciences, the School of Nursing and Midwifery or the School of Medicine and Public Health	7.0	6.5

+IELTS, IBT sections and PTE Section minimums are: L-Listening, R-Reading, S-Speaking, W-Writing

2. You hold a recognised qualification, (bridging, tertiary or senior secondary level) wholly conducted and assessed in English of at least one year full time or equivalent duration from within one of the countries specified in Table 2 and are a citizen of or have resided in the country for the duration of the studies.

Table 2: Country exemption list

Country
Australia
Singapore
American Samoa
Botswana
Canada
Fiji
Ghana
Guyana
Ireland
Jamaica
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
New Zealand
Nigeria
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland)
United States of America
Zambia
Zimbabwe

*Senior secondary studies are studies comparable to the New South Wales Higher School Certificate (NSW HSC).

^For the purposes of this table a recognised qualification includes the University of Newcastle Enabling Programs [Newstep, Open Foundation (PT or FT program), Yapug].

3. You have completed a recognised qualification wholly taught and assessed in English of at least two years full time or equivalent duration, in the last 5 years as proof of your proficiency in English as specified in Table 3.

Table 3: Specific qualifications and grade requirements for English proficiency. Note these qualifications are not applicable for Research Higher Degree applicants

IELTS Academic	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0
GCSE+/ IGCSE – A Level English or Humanities	A* - C (GCSE)	A* - C (GCSE)	A* - C (GCSE)	A level (A-C)	A level (A-C)
Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education, English Language or Literature in English (HKDSE)~	4	5	5*	5**	NA
Malaysia Siji Tinggi Persekolahan, Literature (920) (STPM)	C-,C,C+	B-,B,B+	A-,A	NA	NA
International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher level	3	4	5	6	7
International Baccalaureate (IB) Standard Level	4	5	6	7	NA
Norway Vitnemal den Vidergaende Skole	4	5 or above	NA	NA	NA
Germany Abitur	7	10	NA	NA	NA
Finland Lukion Päästöto- distus	7	8 or above	NA	NA	NA
Denmark Student- ereksamen	English B - 10 +	English A - 7 or above	NA	NA	NA
Netherlands VMO	7	8 or above	NA	NA	NA
Sweden Slutbetyg Pre June 2014	C	B or above	NA	NA	NA
Sweden Slutbetyg June 2014 onwards	Vg	Mvg	NA	NA	NA
Deutscher Akadeimscher Austausch Dienst (DAAD)	2x b and 2 x c	all b	NA	NA	NA

+In English Language or Literature

4. Within the last five (5) years, you have completed a Recognised Qualification that was wholly conducted and assessed in English and is of two years full time or equivalent duration at senior secondary level or above. In addition, the University of Newcastle recognizes the following qualifications. Note some qualifications require a minimum standard of achievement as set in Table 4.

Table 4 – Other Recognised Qualifications. Note these qualifications are not applicable for Research Higher Degree

IELTS Academic	6.0 with no sub- test less than 6.0	6.5 with no sub- test less than 6.0	7.0 with no sub- test less than 6.0	7.0 with no sub- test less than 7.0	7.5 with no sub- test less than 7.0	7.5 with no sub- test less than 7.0 and 8.0 in speaking and listening
UoN Enabling Programs (Open Foundation, Newstep or Yapug)	Successful completion of the University of Newcastle's Open Foundation (PT or FT program) or Newstep or Yapug					
Australian TAFE or VET studies, undertaken and awarded within Australia	Successful completion AQF level V (Diploma) or higher		Successful completion AQF level VI (Advanced Diploma) or higher			
Australian Tertiary Preparation/Bridging programs (except UoN Enabling programs –covered above)	Successful completion of an Australian Tertiary Preparation/Bridging program as listed in the UAC Tertiary Preparation Schedules and of at least one year duration					
Incomplete Tertiary Studies [for students applying for study abroad or exchange at UON only]	Successful completion of minimum one year of full time study or equivalent at the AQF level 7 or above wholly conducted and assessed in English at a recognized institution	NA				
An Australian Senior Secondary qualification completed in a country other than those listed in Table 2	Successful completion of an Australian Senior Secondary qualification completed in a country other than those listed in Table 2	NA				

Table 5 - English language skills tests concordance table - These English language test scores must be less than 2 years old at the date of application to the University of Newcastle

IELTS Academic	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0
ELICOS EAP EXAM	Entry Level Pass (EP)	Higher Level Pass 4 (HP4)	Higher Level Pass 2	Higher Level Pass 1 (HP1)	NA
UTS Insearch Academic English	Successful Completion of Academic English level 4	Successful Completion of Academic English level 5	NA	NA	NA
PSB CEP level 5 (Advanced English Program) <i>Valid until March 2020</i>	EP – students must obtain 60% or more in each of the 4 exams. Each of the 4 exams is of equal weighting	HP – Higher Level Pass – students must obtain 65% or more in 3 of the 4 exams. Only one exam may be in the 60-64% range. Each of the 4 exams is of equal weighting	NA	NA	NA
PSB Certificate in Academic English (PSB CAE) <i>Valid from March 2018</i>	EP – students must obtain 60% or more in each of the 4 exams. Each of the 4 exams is of equal weighting	HP – Higher Level Pass – students must obtain 65% or more in 3 of the 4 exams. Only one exam may be in the 60-64% range. Each of the 4 exams is of equal weighting	NA	NA	NA
TOEFL PB	500	550	589	610	634
TOEFL IBT	60	79	94	102	110
PTE GSE	50	58	65	73	79
OET*	C	B	B	A	A
Cambridge English: Advanced	52	58	67	74	80
Cambridge English: Proficiency	NA	NA	NA	NA	45
Cambridge (from 2015)	169	176	185 (CAE Pass)	191 (CAE Pass)	200 (CAE Pass)
NCUK IFY with EAP	C	B	NA	NA	NA
Australian Pacific College (APC) – EAP A	B	B+	A-	NA	NA
Education First <i>Valid from Semester 2, 2018 to June 2019</i>	Pass 65% (Credit)	Pass 75% (Distinction)	Pass 85% (High Distinction)	NA	NA

*These tests are not accepted for Research Higher Degree applicants

Table 5a – Individual Skills test for specified English language tests

	IELTS	TOEFL PB	TOEFL IBT		PTE Academic	Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) Pre-2015	Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE) Pre-2015	Cambridge (from 2015)
<i>Individual Skills Test</i>	R/L/S/W	TWE	R/L/S	Writing	Section Minimum	Section Minimum	Section Minimum	Section Minimum
	6.0	4.5	R: 13-18 L: 12-19 S: 18-19	21-23	54	Borderline	n/a	169
	6.5	4.5	R: 19-23 L: 20-23 S: 20-22	24-26	61	Borderline	n/a	176
	7.0	5	R: 24-26 L: 24-26 S: 23	27-28	68	Good	n/a	185
	7.5	5.5	R: 27-28 L: 27 S: 24 - 25	29	76	Good	Weak	191
	8.0	6	R: 29 L: 28 S: 26-27	30	79	Exceptional	Borderline	200

About Test Scores

All IELTS and PTE requirements refer to the Academic test. Non-academic tests are not accepted. All English tests have a validity of 2 years.

The University of Newcastle is an international IELTS testing centre. If you would like to book an IELTS test or to find out more information, please visit <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/international/study-with-us/what-can-i-study/english-language-and-ielts>

English Courses at the University of Newcastle

If you do not meet the English requirements for your chosen course and you need to improve your standard of English before you commence your degree, English courses are available at the University's **English Language and Foundation Studies Centre (ELFSC)**. For more information, visit: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/international/study-with-us/what-can-i-study/english-language-and-ielts>

Applicants who achieve the required grades through the relevant ELFSC English tests are not required to provide further evidence of English proficiency. Students who have not undertaken the relevant English tests at ELFSC will need to provide evidence of meeting the English requirements for their course as specified in the tables above.

Advice on English Language Proficiency for Admission

If you are unsure if you meet the University's English Language Proficiency for Admission requirements, contact the University to discuss your educational or professional experience as you may be entitled to a waiver.