

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Effective for entry to UNSW programs from Semester 2 2006

POLICY

All applicants, whether local¹ or international, for admission to any UNSW program delivered either in Australia or overseas, who do not have an assessable qualification undertaken and assessed in English, must provide evidence that their English language ability meets the minimum requirements for admission.

Applicants will be deemed to have satisfied the English Language requirements if they can provide evidence that they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- ❖ Prior study in the medium of English
- ❖ English language tests
- ❖ Residency (postgraduate coursework or research only)

Prior Study

Applicants who have successfully completed at least **one** year of full-time study at a University or other post-secondary educational institution, where the sole language of instruction and assessment was English, will not be required to undertake a language test, if they can provide a statement or certificate, issued by the Registrar's office (or equivalent) of that institution confirming this.

The statement or certificate must be on headed paper, and must be an original copy.

The study must have been completed no more than **two years** prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW.

Alternatively, applicants whose first language is not English, but who have satisfactorily completed a degree or other post-secondary qualification of a minimum duration of three full-time years, or equivalent, where the sole language of instruction and assessment was English, will not be required to take an English test, provided that they have resided in an English-speaking country since graduation. Applicants will be asked to provide proof of residency before an offer will be issued.

English Language Tests

UNSW recognises a number of English Language tests as meeting the University's English Language requirements. These are set out in Appendix 1, together with the minimum results needed for admission.

The test must have been undertaken no more than **two years** prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW.

Normally, only original test certificates are acceptable. The University does not accept certified copies of English language results, other than recent IELTS tests, which will be independently verified.

¹ Local applicants are Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents, or New Zealand Citizens

Residency (Postgraduate Coursework or Research programs only)

Applicants from a non-English speaking background who have met the academic requirements for admission and lived in Australia, or other predominantly English-speaking country², for a period of 5 years or more immediately prior to the commencement of the program at UNSW are deemed to have satisfied the requirements.

Applicants will be asked to provide proof of residency before an offer will be issued.

CONDITIONAL OFFERS – Research, Postgraduate Coursework, and Undergraduate International Applicants

Applicants who provide an English test result which fails to meet the minimum standard required by the University, or who fail to provide any evidence of English language proficiency, 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 the English language proficiency has been met.

Conditional Offers are not available to Local Undergraduate applicants

PACKAGE OFFERS – International Applicants

International applicants who have a minimum IELTS overall score of 5.0 may apply for a Conditional Package Offer. A package offer may be given if applicants have the academic qualifications required for entry, but whose IELTS results did not meet the English Language Requirements.

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 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 – International Applicants

Regardless of UNSW's requirements, international applicants should be aware that they must still satisfy the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) English language requirements for visa applications.

The *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students* requires international students to meet the English proficiency criteria applicable to the Migrant Regulations for their home country. Please see sections 26 – 28 of the *National Code* for further details:

http://www.dest.gov.au/esos/National_Code/contents.htm

² American Samoa, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Canada, Fiji, Gibraltar, Ghana, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, The Gambia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe

WAIVERS – Direct Applicants

Applicants who are not able to demonstrate that they meet one or more of the criteria above, but who, nevertheless, believe that they satisfy the University's English Language requirements, may apply, in writing, to their respective Admissions Office (see Further Information, below) for consideration of a waiver. Such applicants must justify the request and provide alternative evidence, as appropriate.

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

In cases where a student is being considered for a waiver, normally he/she must have achieved an overall IELTS score of at least 6.0 or a TOEFL score (paper-based test) of at least 550, with a minimum score of 4.5 in the TWE, a TOEFL score (computer-based test) of at least 213, with a minimum score of 4.5 in the essay component, or a TOEFL score (internet test) of at least 79, with a minimum score of 21 in Writing.

When waiver recommendations include a requirement to undertake English language improvement or support, then 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.

International applicants should be aware that students from Assessment Level 3 or 4 countries [DIMA classification] must present an IELTS test result and achieve an overall score of 6.0 in order to be granted a student visa for university level study. Details of the DIMA requirements and the Assessment level of countries can be found at www.immi.gov.au.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Undergraduate International/Postgraduate Coursework Programs:

Contact: The Direct Admissions Office
Tel: +61 (2) 9385 3656 (multiple lines)
Fax: +61 (2) 9662 1049

Email:

Applicants whose Family Name begins with A- G

admita-g@unsw.edu.au

Applicants whose Family Name begins with H-L

admith-l@unsw.edu.au

Applicants whose Family Name begins with M-S

admitm-s@unsw.edu.au

Applicants whose Family Name begins with T-Z

admitt-z@unsw.edu.au

Undergraduate Local/Non-Award Programs:

Contact: UAC Admissions Office
Tel: +61 (2) 9385 3228

Fax: +61 (2) 9662 4241
Email: ugadmis@unsw.edu.au

Postgraduate Research Programs:

Contact: Graduate Research School

Tel +61 (2) 9385 5500/5502
Fax +61 (2) 9385 6238
Email: enquiries.grs@unsw.edu.au

April 2006

Appendix 1: ACCEPTED TESTS OF ENGLISH COMPETENCE

All programs offered by UNSW require the same minimum standard of English Language proficiency. Listed below are the **minimum** requirements for each accepted English Language Test.

All tests must have been undertaken no more than **two years** prior to the commencement of study at UNSW.

IELTS	The Academic test modules must have been undertaken. An overall minimum score of 6.5 is required, together with a minimum score of at least 6.0 in each of the sub-tests of listening, reading, speaking and writing.
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – Internet based test	Applicants must achieve an overall minimum score of 90, with a minimum in Writing of 24.
TOEFL – Computer test	Applicants must achieve an overall minimum score of 233, with a minimum in Essay rating 5.0.
TOEFL – Paper test	The paper-based test is being phased out. The paper-based test is not acceptable without the Test of Written English (TWE). Applicants must achieve an overall minimum score of 577 with a minimum score of 5.0 in the TWE.
Australian TAFE and Private Provider Studies	Completed AQF Certificate IV or Completed Advanced Certificate
Combined Universities Language Test (CULT)	The CULT is the UNSW Institute of Languages English test. An overall minimum score of 70 is required, with a minimum score of 17.0 in each of the sub-tests of listening, reading, speaking and writing.
UNSW Institute of Languages University English Entry Course (UEEC)	The UEEC is the UNSW Institute of Languages' English Entry Course – a 10-week intensive English Language program. The minimum acceptable score is completion of the UEEC with a grade of C+ (grade point 7.0) and with a minimum score of at least 20 in the writing component.
Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) – [University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate]	Applicants must achieve a minimum of a B grade.
UNSW Foundation Year	Applicants who have completed the UNSW Foundation Year are required to obtain a minimum grade standard of at least C+ in the subject Academic English and Study Skills.
Foundation Year from an Australian Group of Eight (Go8) University	70% or Grade B in English
Danish A Level Upper Secondary English	Grade 9
All India Senior School Certificate	Grade of C1
Indian School Certificate	70%
Norwegian Senior	Grade 4 in English in the final year

High School	
Swedish Senior High School	Grade 4, 5, or VG or MVG in English in the final year
Hong Kong A Levels	C grade in the Use of English paper
Singapore A Levels	C grade in the General paper
UK A Levels	C grade in a Humanities subject ³
International Baccalauréat – taken in English	Completed diploma
International Baccalauréat – taken in French or Spanish	English A2 at higher level
Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan (Malaysia) [STPM]	C pass in 914/920 English
SAT & ACT	Completed SAT/ACT

³ Humanities – an Arts or Social Science subject that is conducted in English and requires substantial reading, as well as essay writing, in written examinations.

Appendix 2: TEST CENTRES

IELTS TEST CENTRES

The International English Language Testing Service is available in more than 105 countries at over 220 approved test centres:

<http://www.ielts.org/index.htm>

Further information is available by contacting:

IELTS Australia

GPO Box 2006

Canberra ACT 2601

Australia

Tel: (61) 6285 8222

Fax: (61) 6285 3233

Email: ielts@idp.edu.au

For applicants who are already in Australia, there are three IELTS test centres in Sydney:

International Office

University of Technology Sydney

10 Quay St

Haymarket NSW 2007

Tel: 9514 1531

Fax: 9514 1530

NCELTR

Building W6C

Macquarie University

Balaclava Road

North Ryde NSW 2109

Tel: 9850 7673

Fax: 9850 7849

Centre for English Teaching

University of Sydney

Tel: 9351 0757

TOEFL TEST CENTRES

To register for TOEFL, applicants must obtain a copy of the Information Bulletin for Supplemental TOEFL Administrations. Applicants cannot register at the test centre or by personal letter, telephone, fax, cable, or electronic mail. Applicants must complete the registration form in the Bulletin and mail it to TOEFL Services, PO Box 6151, Princeton, NJ, 08541-6151, USA.

Website: www.toefl.org

UNSW INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES

Contact: Institute of Languages, UNSW

UEEC Tel: +61 (2) 9385 4294

Fax: +61 (2) 9385 6070

CULT Tel: +61 (2) 9385 0339

Fax: +61 (2) 9339 5420

Website: www.lang.unsw.edu.au

