English Language Proficiency Procedure

Section 1 - Purpose

(1) This Procedure sets out how applicants to the University can demonstrate they meet the English language proficiency requirement of their relevant program.

(2) This Procedure should be read in conjunction with the English Language Proficiency Policy.

Section 2 - Scope

(3) This Procedure applies to applicants seeking admission to the University to study undergraduate or postgraduate programs of study, regardless of their citizenship or study location.

(4) This Procedure does not apply to applicants seeking admission to enabling programs or approved preparatory English programs.

(5) It is noted that students also seeking accreditation or registration with professional bodies may be required to demonstrate English language proficiency requirements in addition to the University's requirements. Contact should be made with the relevant professional body in these circumstances.

Section 3 - Relevant Definitions

(6) Please refer to the English Language Proficiency Policy.

Section 4 - Demonstrating English language proficiency requirements

(7) Evidence used to demonstrate an applicant's English language proficiency may be:

a. a completed University recognised English language proficiency test, that has been undertaken within two years prior to the University program commencement date (please refer to Section 5);
b. a completed University recognised preparatory English or enabling/pathway program (please refer to Section 6);
c. evidence of prior study that was taught and assessed within a University recognised English speaking country or is a Recognised Qualification (please refer to Section 7); or
d. evidence of accumulation of English through a combination of qualification(s), work and/or life experiences (please refer to Section 8).

(8) English language proficiency can be evidenced for all undergraduate nursing and all undergraduate midwifery programs by either providing a written declaration that English is their primary language, or providing evidence that they have achieved the minimum English language test results required in English language skills registration

standards set by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) and Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

(9) Where an applicant provides evidence that can demonstrate their English language proficiency through multiple pathways, the most recent evidence will be used for the purpose of meeting the English language requirements for a program.

(10) The University reserves the right to request additional evidence of meeting the English language proficiency requirements if the University determines that the evidence provided is insufficient. This applies, amongst others, to cases where a combination of the University of Newcastle and the applicant's country of citizenship assessment level require submission of evidence of English language ability as per the Department of Home Affairs English Language requirements for student visa applications.

(11) The University may accept evidence alternate to that outlined in Clause 7 in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with this Procedure. Such evidence will be considered via a Record of Academic Decision (RAD) by an authorised delegate on a case by case basis. Outcomes of such decisions will not be used to establish any precedent for admission or non-admission into a program.

Section 5 - English Language Proficiency Tests

(12) Applicants may meet the University's English language proficiency requirement for a program by completing a University recognised English Language test and achieving the overall and minimum section score requirements. The English language test must be undertaken within two years of the University program commencement date.

(13) A consolidated list of programs that require a level of English proficiency that is higher than the English Language Proficiency Standard can be found here.

Table 1 – English language tests and section minimum score requirements

Overall Test Score Equivalences					
IELTS	**6.0**	**6.5**	**7.0**	**7.5**	**8.0**
TOEFL iBT	70	85	94	102	110
PTE Academic	52	59	66	75	82
Cambridge English Advanced (CAE)	169	176	185	191	200
Duolingo English Test (DET)	110	120	130	140	150
LanguageCert Academic	61	67	73	81	88
Occupational English Test (OET)*	290	320	350	400	450
Test Section Minimum Equivalences^					
IELTS	**6.0**	**6.5**	**7.0**	**7.5**	**8.0**
TOEFL iBT	R16, L16, S18, W21	R19, L20, S20, W24	R24, L24, S23, W27	R27, L27, S24, W29	R29, L28, S26, W30
PTE Academic	52	59	66	75	82
Cambridge English Advanced (CAE)	169	176	185	191	200
Duolingo English Test (DET)~	110	120	130	140	150

Overall Test Score Equivalences					
LanguageCert Academic#	L57, R60, W64, S70	L62, R65, W71, S76	L67, R71, W78, S82	L73, R77, W84, S87	L80, R83, W89, S89
Occupational English Test (OET)*	Not applicable.				

*Not applicable for Higher Degree by Research programs
^ Note, unless indicated by separate section scores, the minimum subtest score must be achieved in all sub-tests.

The LanguageCert Academic test must be undertaken at a secure test centre.
~ DET utilises Integrated Subscores and Individual Subscores (SWRL) (from October 2024). SWRL scores will be the basis for test section minimum equivalences to align with the other recognised English Language Proficiency Tests. DET will only be recognised for applicants with citizenship from low-risk countries (as determined by the Department of Home Affairs) who are eligible for streamlined student visa applications.

Section 6 - Enabling or Pathway Programs

(14) Applicants may meet the English language proficiency requirement for their program by completing a University recognised enabling or pathway program at the University, as specified in Table 2. A full list of recognised University-affiliated ELICOS / EAP programs may be found here.

Table 2 – University of Newcastle enabling and pathway programs

University of Newcastle Managing Unit	Program	IELTS Equivalence Scores				
		6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0
Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre	English Language Bridging Program (ELBP)	Entry Level Pass (EP)	Higher Level Pass 4 (HP4)	Higher Level Pass 2 (HP2)	Higher Level Pass 1 (HP1)	N/A
	Newstep	Completion of program				
	NUchance	Completion of program				
	Open Foundation	Completion of program				
	Open Foundation Extended	Completion of program				
	Yapug	Completion of program				
University of Newcastle College of International Education	Foundation Studies / Foundation Studies in Medicine	50%*	65%*	75%*	85%*	N/A
	Degree Transfer Extended Business / Commerce / Engineering / Information Technology	Completion of program				
	Pre Masters Program Business Information Technology	Completion of program				

*Average Foundation Studies English for Academic Purposes and Introduction to Academic Communication

Section 7 - Prior Study

(15) Applicants may meet the English language proficiency requirement for their program by providing evidence of prior study that demonstrates they have:

a. completed at least one year of full-time (or equivalent) study (bridging, tertiary or senior secondary level) towards a recognised qualification wholly conducted and assessed in English from one of the countries specified in Table 3. (Note, senior secondary studies are studies that are comparable to the New South Wales Higher School Certificate); or

b. completed a recognised qualification within the five years prior to application that was wholly conducted and assessed in English and is listed on the University of Newcastle's Medium of Instruction Register. Applicants are encouraged to provide evidence of the study completed and the University will assess the evidence provided; or

c. achieved an IELTS score equivalence for the qualifications and programs listed in Table 4 or Table 5. This evidence must be less than five years old as at the date of the application for admission to the University. Note, these qualifications are not applicable for Higher Degree by Research applicants.

Table 3 – English language proficiency – Country Exemption List

Country			
American Samoa	Antigua and Barbuda	Australia	Bahamas
Barbados	Botswana	Belize	Canada
Cook Islands	Dominica	Fiji	Gambia
Ghana	Gibraltar	Grenada	Guyana
Ireland	Jamaica	Kenya	Kiribati
Lesotho	Liberia	Malawi	Maldives
Namibia	Nauru	New Zealand	Nigeria
Papua New Guinea	Philippines	Samoa	Singapore
Solomon Islands	South Africa	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Tanzania
Tonga	Trinidad and Tobago	Uganda	United Kingdom
United States of America	Vanuatu	Zambia	Zimbabwe

Table 4 – Specific qualifications and grade requirements for English proficiency

Country or Region of Study	Senior Secondary Level Qualification	IELTS Score Equivalence				
		6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0
Various	International Baccalaureate (IB) English A Literature or English A Language and Literature at Higher Level or Standard Level	3	4	5	6	7
	International Baccalaureate (IB) English B at Higher Level or Standard Level	4	5	6	7	N/A
Denmark	Studentereksamen	English A–6 or English B–9	English A–7 or English B–10	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finland	Ylioppilastutkinto / Studentexamen	7	8 or above	N/A	N/A	N/A
Germany	Arbitur	7	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Deutscher Akadeimscher Austausch Dienst (DAAD)	Minimum top two scores in two sections and a C grade in final section.	Minimum top two scores in all sections.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Country or Region of Study	Senior Secondary Level Qualification	IELTS Score Equivalence				
Hong Kong	Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) – English Language or Literature in English	4	5	5*	5**	N/A
Malaysia	Malaysia Siji Tinggi Persekolahan (STPM) – English Literature (920)	C-, C, C+	B-, B, B+	A-, A	N/A	N/A
Netherlands	Diploma Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwii (VWO)	7	8 or above	N/A	N/A	N/A
Norway	Vitnemal den Viddergaende Skole	4	5 or above	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sweden	Slutbetyg	C	B or above	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 5 – Other Internally Recognised Qualifications

Qualification	IELTS Score Equivalence				
	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0
Australian University affiliated Tertiary Preparation / Bridging Program	Successful completion of an Australian Tertiary Preparation / Bridging Program as listed in the UAC Tertiary Preparation Schedules.				
Incomplete tertiary studies (for study abroad or exchange students only)	Successful completion of a minimum 1 year full time equivalent study at AQF7 or above wholly conducted and assessed in English at a recognised institution.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AEMG Academic English for Academic Purposes 3 Direct Entry Program (EAP3DEP)	70%	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A
PSB Certificate in Academic English (PSB CAE)	EP – 60% or more in each of the 4 exams. Each exam is equally weighted.	HP – Higher Level Pass – 65% or more in 3 of the 4 exams. Only 1 exam may be in 60-64$ range. Each exam is equally weighted.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kaplan English for Advanced Purposes 2	65%	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navitas English Services Pty Ltd	AE3 (Pass 50%)	AE3 (Pass 65%)	AE3 (Pass 75%)	N/A	N/A
NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY)	C	B	N/A	N/A	N/A
ILSC English for Academic Purpose (EAP)	I4	A1	A2	N/A	N/A

Section 8 - Accumulation of English

(16) Applicants may meet the English language proficiency requirement for their program by providing evidence that they can achieve the required points in the English Proficiency Form for Accumulated English for Coursework Programs (See Accumulation of English Form). Note, this method of demonstrating English language proficiency will only be considered should an applicant be unable to meet their program's English requirements through another entry pathway and is not applicable for Higher Degree by Research applicants.

Section 9 - Roles and Responsibilities

(17) The Academic Division General Manager and Academic Registrar will report to Academic Senate on an annual basis to detail all RADs approved by authorised delegates.

(18) The Pro Vice-Chancellor Education Innovation is responsible for conducting a review of the efficacy of the University's process for meeting English language proficiency requirements every three years and will report outcomes to Academic Senate via the Teaching and Learning Committee.

(19) Relevant College Pro Vice-Chancellor's are responsible for seeking approval or amendment of a program's English language proficiency requirement via Program and Course Approval Committee.

(20) The relevant Admissions Officer / Advisor is responsible for seeking consideration of Records of Academic Decisions, as permitted under this Procedure to the relevant authorised delegate, on behalf of the applicant.

(21) Applicants are responsible for providing information with their admission application to demonstrate how they meet the English language proficiency requirements for the program they have applied for. International applicants may apply to the University without evidence of English proficiency and receive conditional offers or be offered admission via the University's English Language Bridging Program (ELBP). International applicants must satisfy the Department of Home Affairs English language requirements for visa applications in addition to the University's English language requirement for entry into a program of study.

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Glossary Terms and Definitions

"Enabling program" - A tertiary preparation program offered to domestic students.

"University" - The University of Newcastle, a body corporate established under sections 4 and 5 of the University of Newcastle Act 1989.

"Risk" - Effect of uncertainty on objectives. Note: An effect is a deviation from the expected, whether it is positive and/or negative.

"Applicant" - Where referring to a student, an applicant is an individual seeking entry to a program or course offered by the University or its partner organisation/s. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Student" - A person formally enrolled in a course or active in a program offered by the University or affiliated entity.

"Postgraduate" - Any qualification being at the level of Graduate Certificate or above.

"Program" - When referring to learning, a program is a sequence of approved learning, usually leading to an Award. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Undergraduate" - Refers to any qualification up to and including the level of a Bachelor Honours degree.

"Delegate" - (noun) refers to a person occupying a position that has been granted or sub-delegated a delegation of authority, or a committee or body that has been granted or sub-delegated a delegation of authority.

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