

English Language requirements²

Teaching in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is normally through the medium of English; therefore, all applicants are required to demonstrate a high level of competence in English Language.

Applicants presenting Irish Leaving Certificate or A-level are expected to meet English language requirements through those examinations (Leaving Certificate: minimum H7/O6, A level minimum GCSE 4/C). Applicants presenting other examinations, must normally provide an English result as part of that examination. If the grade in English is below the requirement or the result is more than 2 years old, the applicant must also present evidence of equivalent competence in English Language in a recognised English language test, as specified below (note applicants are assessed on the results of a single sitting only):

Note: there may be higher levels for matriculation and/or particular programmes in individual institutions.

Test	Requirements
EU Countries' Matriculation Examination³	Matriculation Examinations from European Countries where English is presented as a subject and an acceptable level is achieved. Where the examination has been taken more than 2 years previously candidates may be required to take a proficiency test. Where an English proficiency test which is scored on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) is presented as part of a school-leaving qualification, grade must be C1/C2.
Duolingo DET	A score of 120 is required with at least 110 in each subscore.
English Test for Academic and Professional Purposes (ETAPP):	With grade C1 or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)
IELCA Academic	Minimum score 35 with a minimum of 33 in each band
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - Academic	An average score of 6.5 over all components and a minimum of 6.0 in each band. Note: In 2025 we will accept IELTS indicator. It may not be recognised after that depending on the outcome of a review.
Language Cert ⁴	B2 Communicator High Pass with no less than 33 in each skill taken with no more than 3 months between components.

² English requirements may vary for HEIs and individual courses – please consult HEI websites for details.

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Agreed Entry Requirements for EU/EFTA/UK

Test	Requirements
Language Cert Academic	70 overall will 65 in each skill
Oxford Test of English ⁴	Minimum score of 140 overall with a minimum score of 125 in each skill.
Pearson English language text (PTE Academic):	minimum of 63 (with at least 59 for each item in the Communicative Skills section) ⁵ .
QQI FET ESL	Merit in the module "English as a Second Language" or "Communications" (level 5)
Skills for English UKBI B2 (4 Component Test)	Pass with Merit in all components
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	iBT: 90 (no less than 21 in writing and at least 19 in every other section) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Note: In 2025 we will accept TOEFL Home Edition . It may not be recognised after that depending on the outcome of a review.
Trinity ISE	Trinity ISE III with at least merit in each skill category
UK Examining Boards/Bodies	GCE O Level English Language at Grade C/4 or above GCSE English Language at Grade C/4 or above GCSE English Literature at Grade C/4 or above CSE Grade 1 Pass in English English as a second language GCSE grades 7-9
University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES)	with English at grade C or above (incorporating the Oxford Examining Body's English as a Foreign Language (Higher Paper)
University of Cambridge:	176+ on Cambridge English scale with no less than 169 in each skill and use of English i.e. Proficiency Certificate, Grade C or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2) Advanced Certificate, Grade C or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2) First Certificate, Grade A (CEFR Level C1)

⁴ Subject to local approval. Note: while in most cases all components of an EFL test must be taken in a single sitting as the nature of this examination is requires two sittings, this will be accepted provided they are within 3 months of each other.

⁵ Pearson English Language is not currently accepted by DCU

November 2024. This document is for 2025 entry. The matriculation and English language requirements are the minimum and will be higher for certain courses and in certain institutions. Applicants must also refer to HEI websites for details of specific subject requirements and previous points requirements.

Agreed Entry Requirements for EU/EFTA/UK

Proficiency tests are used to meet entry requirements but do not count towards points scores. For all proficiency tests the results must normally have issued within two years prior to the start of your course (i.e., for entry in September 2025, only results attained since 1 February 2023 will be accepted).

Note: Where an applicant shows evidence of hearing impairment which meets the requirements for access, the English language requirements can be met without the hearing and speaking components