



ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS POLICY

Document Type	Policy
Document owner	Lucinda Parr (Secretary and Registrar)
Approved by	Senate
Approval date	07 March 2018
Review date	N/A
Version	2.0
Amendments	N/A
Related Policies & Procedures	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It is essential that all students have a good command of the English language to benefit from their studies at the School.
- 1.2 As part of the application process, applicants are required to demonstrate how they meet the School's minimum English language requirements. This is particularly important for applicants requiring a Tier 4 Student visa, as the UK Home Office dictates that every student from outside the UK and European Union (EU) must show evidence of a minimum level of English language ability (called CEFR¹ B2 level), in order for a Tier 4 Student visa to be issued for entry to the UK.
- 1.3 Additionally, the School asks applicants to have minimum English language proficiency levels that are necessary for our academic programmes. These levels are higher than the CEFR B2 minimum level and also apply to EU applicants, although these will not normally require a Tier 4 Student visa.
- 1.4 The academic English language requirements for each of the School's programmes are categorised into one of three profiles²:
 - Band A (highest requirement)
 - Band B (mid-range/'standard' requirement)
 - Band C (lowest requirement)

Please refer to the appropriate [Course Description](#) pages for the English language requirement Band of your preferred programme.

2. EXEMPTIONS

- 2.1 Applicants who are a national of a majority English-speaking country or who have successfully completed an appropriate academic qualification (at least equivalent to a UK Bachelor's degree), which was taught in a majority English speaking country from the [UKVI approved country list](#), automatically meet the School's English Language requirements.

Please note, Canadian nationals are exempt from meeting English Language requirements but non-Canadian nationals who have studied in Canada are still required to meet the English Language



requirements for their preferred programme, due to Home Office regulations. The School may accept a successfully completed academic qualification from Canada with additional evidence that the qualification was taught through the medium of English.

3. PROFICIENCY TESTS

3.1 The School accepts the following English proficiency tests:

- [Cambridge Advanced English \(CAE\)](#)
- [Cambridge English: Proficiency \(CPE\)](#)
- [IELTS \(Academic\)](#)³
- [Pearson PTE Academic](#)
- [TOEFL Internet Based Test \(IBT\)](#)⁴ – ***not accepted for applicants requiring a Tier 4 student visa.***

¹ Common European Framework for Languages

² See Section 3.4 for details

³ 'IELTS General' and 'IELTS for UKVI' are **NOT** accepted

⁴ Please enter the School's institution code **0499** on your answer sheet when you take the TOEFL IBT test

- 3.2 Applicants requiring a Tier 4 Student visa are strongly recommended to obtain one of these English proficiency tests, as other tests may not meet the minimum requirements to support a visa application. **Please note however, that TOEFL IBT is not accepted for Tier 4 visa applicants.**
- 3.3 The School will only accept proficiency tests that were completed and passed within two years immediately preceding the 1st of June before the start of the programme. English tests taken prior to this date will not be considered as valid⁵.
- 3.4 The School requires the following minimum proficiency test scores:

	BAND A (Highest Requirement)	BAND B (Standard Requirement)	BAND C (Lowest Requirement)
Cambridge CAE / CPE	Overall Score: 200 Writing: 200 Listening: 180 Reading: 180 Speaking: 180	Overall Score: 185 Writing: 176 Listening: 169 Reading: 169 Speaking: 169	Overall Score: 173 Writing: 169 Listening: 162 Reading: 162 Speaking: 162
IELTS (Academic)	Overall Score: 7.5 Writing: 7.0 Listening: 6.0 Reading: 6.0 Speaking: 6.0	Overall Score: 7.0 Writing: 6.5 Listening: 5.5 Reading: 5.5 Speaking: 5.5	Overall Score: 6.0 Writing: 6.0 Listening: 5.5 Reading: 5.5 Speaking: 5.5
Pearson PTE Academic	Overall Score: 74 Writing: 68 Listening: 54 Reading: 54 Speaking: 54	Overall Score: 68 Writing: 62 Listening: 45 Reading: 45 Speaking: 45	Overall Score: 55 Writing: 54 Listening: 45 Reading: 45 Speaking: 45
TOEFL IBT *	Overall Score: 108 Writing: 27 Listening: 23 Reading: 23 Speaking: 23	Overall Score: 100 Writing: 24 Listening: 21 Reading: 22 Speaking: 23	Overall Score: 80 Writing: 20 Listening: 18 Reading: 18 Speaking: 18

* The School will not accept TOEFL IBT from applicants requiring a Tier 4 student visa

4. OTHER ENGLISH QUALIFICATIONS

- 4.1 The School also accepts a range of other English language qualifications, which are listed in the tables below.
- 4.2 Any qualifications listed below should have been awarded within four years of the start of the applicant's chosen degree programme. Applicants holding a qualification obtained prior to this date



may be required to provide additional evidence to support their ongoing use of English since completion of their qualification, or alternatively complete a new English language qualification or proficiency test.

⁵ Also see Section 4.2

4.3 Accepted International English Qualifications:

Qualification	Minimum Entry Requirement
AS Level / A-Level, English Language (or essay based subject) i.e. History, Sociology, etc.	Grade B
GCSE or GCE 'O' Level in English	Grade B
IGCSE English first language syllabus 0552	Grade B
IGCSE English as a second language syllabus 0511	Grade B
International Baccalaureate	Standard Level Grade 6 or Higher Level Grade 5
West African Examinations Council School Certificate (WAEC SSCE)	Grade B or above
Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE)	Grade B or above in English
Ghana Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE)	Grade B or above in English
Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)	Grade B or above in English
South African National Senior Certificate / South African Matriculation Certificate	Grade 5 or above in English
Tanzania Certificate in Secondary Education (TCSE)	Grade B or above in English
Ugandan Certificate of Education (UCE)	Grade 5 or above in English
Zambia Secondary School Certificate (ZSSC)	Grade B or above in English

4.4 Accepted European English Qualifications:

Qualification	Minimum Entry Requirement
European Baccalaureate (English 1 st Language)	70%
European Baccalaureate (English 2 nd Language)	70%
Denmark: Studentereksamen (Upper Secondary School Leaving Examination)	Grade 10 in English
Finland: Ylioppilastutkintotoimisto / Studentexamensbetyg (Finnish National Matriculation)	5 (Magna cum Laude) in English
Norway: Vitnemål – videregående opplæring (School Leaving Certificate)	Grade 5 in English
Sweden: Slutbetyg från Gymnasieskolan (School Leaving Certificate)	VG (Pass with distinction) in English
Netherlands: VWO	Grade 8 in English
Germany: Abitur	Grade 11 in English
French Baccalaureate	Grade 12 in English



5. ENQUIRIES

- 5.1 Applicants with any queries related to the School's English language requirements, or the validity of a current English language proficiency test or qualification, should contact our Admissions team: admissions@lshtm.ac.uk.