

Postgraduate English Language Requirements

Amended by the Academic Board on 24 August 2011

Date of effect: 25 August 2011

Appendix last amended: 24 August 2011

1. Policy

This policy outlines the Academic Board's position on English language requirements for applicants for postgraduate award courses for whom English is not their first language.

2. Background

The Academic Board has established the minimum English language requirements for postgraduate award course applicants. Faculties may ask the Academic Board to approve specific requirements above the University minimum levels. Students must be made aware of the English language requirements at the time of application.

3. Coverage

This policy applies to all applicants, both local and international, for postgraduate coursework and postgraduate research award courses.

4. Principles

4.1 Once candidates have satisfied academic eligibility provisions (admission) and met any necessary student visa requirements, candidates must also satisfy these provisions relating to English language proficiency.

4.2 Faculties may request that the Academic Board approve English language requirements above the minimum set out in 4.3.3 below. Approved Faculty variations above the minimum requirements are set out in appendix one of this policy.

4.3 Proof of proficiency in English may include:

4.3.1 a record of satisfactory achievement in tertiary studies in which the language of the institution was English and the language of instruction, examination and assessment was English. Satisfactory achievement will be determined by the appropriate Faculty and should be relevant to the discipline concerned.

4.3.2 Successful completion of an appropriate course at the University's Centre for English Teaching, with results at the standard required for the University award course being applied for.

4.3.3 an internationally recognised English language test meeting the University minimum requirements, or approved Faculty requirements where these are higher than the University minimum:

4.3.3.1 IELTS (International English Language Testing Scheme) overall band score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band; or

4.3.3.2 TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) 577 plus TWE (Test of Written English) at 4.5; or

4.3.3.3 IBT (Internet Based TOEFL) 90 plus minimum of 23 for writing and 22 for Reading, Speaking and Listening

4.3.3.4 the relevant Faculty requirements set out in Appendix One, where the requirements are higher than the University minimum above.

5. Dean's ability to waive English language requirements in certain circumstances

- 5.1 In accordance with the *Delegations of Authority: Academic Functions*, the Dean of the Faculty has the ability to waive English language requirements in certain circumstances.
- 5.2 In waiving English language requirements the Dean of the Faculty must be satisfied, on the advice of the head of department/school concerned that the candidate has English language competency to enable the successful completion of the course.
- 5.3 The Dean of the Faculty may waive English language requirements where a candidate submits a recognised English language test score which deviates from the University, or specific course requirements by IELTS (International English Language Testing Scheme) not more than 0.5 below the overall band score and not more than 1.0 below in any of the individual bands; or equivalent result in an alternative recognised measure of English language proficiency as listed in Section 4.3.
- 5.4 In establishing satisfaction that the candidate has English language competency to enable the successful completion of the course, where the Dean is waiving English language requirements, the Dean may consider all relevant factors including such things as ability to communicate in an academic environment; the fact of a student having been known to the Faculty for at least two years; previous appropriate work experience in an English language environment; and verbal discussion between the Faculty and the candidate.
- 5.5 The Graduate Studies Committee may approve exceptions to the limits for 5.3 in exceptional circumstances.

6. Time limits

- 6.1 Where a candidate is providing proof of proficiency in English through a record of satisfactory achievement in tertiary studies. The tertiary studies must have been undertaken no more than a maximum of 5 years prior to the application.
- 6.2 Where a candidate is providing proof of proficiency in English through successful completion of an appropriate course at the University's Centre for English Teaching, the course shall have been completed no more than 2 years prior to the application
- 6.3 Where a candidate is providing proof of proficiency in English through an internationally recognised English language test, scores older than two years at the time of application will not be accepted.

7. Procedures for waiving English language requirements

- 7.1 The Dean must record in writing the approval to waive English requirements on an individual basis outlining:
- 7.1.1 the proof of proficiency in English provided by the candidate;
 - 7.1.2 the reasons, in accordance with this policy, the Dean approved the waiver.
- 7.2 The Faculty Office (or appropriate administrative unit) shall ensure:

- 7.2.1 a record of the approved waiving of requirements is kept on the student file;
- 7.2.2 for local applicants, that the basis for admission is recorded in FlexSIS; and
- 7.2.3 for International applicants, that the International Office is advised of the approval to waive English requirements and the basis for the decision and that the International Office ensures that the basis for admission is recorded in FlexSIS.

8. Authority

8.1 Development/consultation

Consultation on this policy involved the International Office, the Strategic Director (Internationalisation), faculties, the Graduate Studies Committee, and the Academic Board.

8.2 Management responsibility

University Secretariat

8.3 Implementation and monitoring

The Graduate Studies Committee of the Academic Board has responsibility for implementing and monitoring the policy.

8.4 Review

This policy will be reviewed from time to time by the Academic Board

8.5 Communication

The University Secretariat shall be responsible for communicating this policy.

8.6 Contact

Inquiries should be directed to:
The University Secretariat
L4.05
A14, Quadrangle Building

9. Related information

9.1 Related University legislation, resolutions, policies and procedures include:

9.1.1 University of Sydney (Amendment Act) Rule 1999 (as amended) at <http://sydney.edu.au/publications/calendar/>

9.1.2 Probationary candidate and English expression at http://sydney.edu.au/ab/policies/PG_Probationary_Candidature_English_Expression.pdf

9.2 University policies superseded or replaced by this policy:

9.2.1 Postgraduate English Language Requirements (approved 28 April 2004) at http://sydney.edu.au/ab/policies/PG_Eng_Lang_reqs.pdf

9.3 External legislation, resolutions, policies related to this policy include:

9.3.1 Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 at <http://aei.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/ESOSLegislation/Default.htm>

9.3.2 National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students (The National Code) at <http://aei.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/NationalCodeOfPractice2007/Default.htm>

Appendix One: Schedule of approved Faculty variations, above the University minimum requirements

Faculty	Course	Requirements (above the University minimum)	Approval Date
Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources			
Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning	All postgraduate award courses	For students without a Bachelor's Degree from an English language university, and who have studied less than two years in an institution of English instruction, an IELTS score of a minimum average of 7.0 with no section below 6.0 must be provided.	18 April 2007
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	Master of Crosscultural Communication Master of Museum Studies Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands	6 October 2010
	Master of Media Practice Graduate Diploma in Media Practice Graduate Certificate in Media Practice	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in any band	27 August 2008
	Master of Publishing Graduate Diploma in Publishing Graduate Certificate in Publishing		
	Master of Strategic Public Relations Graduate Diploma in Strategic Public Relations Graduate Certificate in Strategic Public Relations		
	Master of Health Communication Graduate Diploma in Health Communication Graduate Certificate in Health Communication		
	Master of Human Rights Graduate Diploma in Human Rights Graduate Certificate in Human Rights	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in any band	8 October 2008
	Master of Art Curatorship Graduate Diploma in Art Curatorship Graduate Certificate in Art Curatorship		
Master of Political Economy Graduate Diploma in Political Economy Graduate Certificate in			

	<p>Political Economy</p> <p>Master of International Studies Graduate Diploma in International Studies Graduate Certificate in International Studies</p> <p>Master of Public Policy Graduate Diploma in Public Policy Graduate Certificate in Public Policy</p> <p>Master of Professional Communication Graduate Diploma in Professional Communication Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication</p> <p>Master of Translation Studies Graduate Diploma in Translation Studies</p> <p>Master of Letters in US Studies Master of US Studies Graduate Diploma in US Studies Graduate Certificate in US Studies</p> <p>Master of Arts in the subject area of English Graduate Diploma in Arts in the subject area of English Graduate Certificate in Arts in the subject area of English Master of Creative Writing Graduate Diploma in Creative Writing Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing</p> <p>Master of International Security Studies (and embedded sequences), Master of Economics (and embedded sequences).</p>	<p>IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in any band</p> <p>IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or above with a result of a minimum of 7.0 in Speaking and Writing and a minimum of 6.0 in Listening and Reading</p> <p>IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or above with a result of a minimum of 6.5 in Speaking and Writing and a minimum of 6.0 in Listening and Reading</p> <p>IELTS overall 7.0 with a minimum of 7.0 in the Writing band and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL – 600 or better plus TWE at 4.5+ • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0 	<p>26 August 2009</p> <p>8 October 2008</p> <p>27 August 2008</p> <p>24 February 2010</p> <p>6 October 2010</p>
Faculty of Dentistry	<p>Doctor of Clinical Dentistry, Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Dentistry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS 7 with no band below 6.5 or • TOEFL 600 plus TWE 5.0+ or 	1 July 2009
University of Sydney Business School	<p>Executive Master of Business Administration, Master of Management, Master of Management (CEMS), Master of Marketing (and embedded sequences), Master of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL – 600 or better plus TWE at 4.5+ • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0 	6 October 2010

	<p>Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations (and embedded sequences), Master of International Business and Law, Master of International Security Studies (and embedded sequences), Master of Organisational Coaching (and embedded sequences)</p> <p>Master of Commerce (and embedded sequences), Master of Commerce and Master of Logistics Management, Graduate Certificate in Innovation and Enterprise, Master of International Business (and embedded sequences), Master of International Business and Master of Commerce, Master of International Business and Master of Logistics Management, Master of Logistics Management (and embedded sequences), Master of Logistics Management and Master of Transport Management, Master of Professional Accounting, Master of Transport Management (and embedded sequences), Master of Economics (and embedded sequences).</p> <p>All research degrees</p>	<p>IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with a section minimum of 6.5</p>	<p>26 August 2009</p>
Faculty of Education and Social Work	<p>Master of Teaching</p> <p>Master of Social Work (Qualifying)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better with minimum of 8.0 in speaking and listening modules and minimum of 7.0 in reading and writing modules IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better with minimum of 7.0 in each band 	<p>1 July 2009</p> <p>26 May 2010</p>
Faculty of Engineering			
Faculty of Health Sciences	<p>Doctor of Health Sciences</p> <p>Master of Occupational Therapy; all postgraduate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOEFL – 600 or better, plus TWE at 5.0+ IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 6.5 for Speaking and for Writing on each band TOEFL – 600 or better, plus TWE at 5.0+ 	<p>12 June 2002</p> <p>29 August 2007</p>

	<p>Physiotherapy courses</p> <p>Master of Diagnostic Radiography; Master of Molecular Imaging; Master of Nuclear Medicine; Master of Radiation Therapy; Master of Exercise and Sports Science; Graduate Diploma in Exercise and Sports Science; Graduate Certificate in Exercise and Sports Science; Master of Health Informatics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7 for Speaking and for Writing on each band • TOEFL – 600 or better, plus TWE at 5.0+ • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 6.5 for Speaking and for Writing on each band 	11 November 2009
	Master of Speech Language Pathology; Master of Exercise Physiology;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 in each of the components 	15 September 2004
Faculty of Law	<p>Juris Doctor</p> <p>All other postgraduate award courses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better with a minimum of 7.0 in each band • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 6.0 in each of the components 	<p>24 February 2010</p> <p>12 February 1997</p>
Faculty of Medicine	<p>Master of Qualitative Health Research, Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate in Qualitative Health Research</p> <p>Master of Genetic Counselling, Graduate Diploma of Genetic Counselling</p> <p>Master of Clinical Trials Research, Graduate Diploma in Clinical Trials Research, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum of 6.5 in each band • TOEFL: 600 or better plus TWE at 5.0+ • IELTS – overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum of 7.0 in each band 	<p>7 October 2009</p> <p>30 June 2010</p> <p>25 August 2010</p>
Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery	All postgraduate award courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 in each of the components 	14 August 2002
Faculty of Pharmacy	All postgraduate award courses, with the exception of the Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL – 600 or better plus TWE at 4.5+ • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.5 	11 October 2007 (effective from 1 January 2008)
Faculty of Science	Master of Nutrition and Dietetics; Master of Nutritional Science; Master of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better, with at least 6.5 in 	14 November 2005 (effective from 1 January 2006)

	<p>Applied Science (Nutrition and Dietetics); Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Nutrition and Dietetics); and Graduate Certificate in Applied Science (Nutrition and Dietetics)</p> <p>Graduate Certificate in Applied Science (Psychology of Coaching), Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Psychology of Coaching) and Master of Applied Science (Psychology of Coaching)</p> <p>Master of Environmental Science and Law and Master of Environmental Law;</p> <p>Doctor of Clinical Psychology; Doctor of Clinical Neuropsychology</p>	<p>each of the components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS: Overall band score of 7.5 as a minimum on each band with no band falling below a score of 6.0 • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with no band less than 6.0 • IELTS – Overall score of 7.0, with no band less than 7.0 	<p>16 March 2005 (effective from 1 January 2005)</p> <p>2 November 2005</p> <p>14 November 2005 (effective from 1 January 2006)</p>
Faculty of Veterinary Science	<p>All postgraduate award courses except the Veterinary Public Health Management courses</p> <p>Master of Veterinary Public Health Management; Graduate Diploma in Veterinary Public Health Management; and Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Public Health Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 with no band falling below a score of 6.5. • TOEFL: 600 or better plus TWE at 5.0+ • TOEFL – 600 or better plus TWE at 5.0+ • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 for Speaking and 7.0 for Writing on each band. 	<p>16 March 2005 (effective from 1 January 2005)</p> <p>12 November 2003</p>
Sydney College of the Arts	All postgraduate award courses	<p>“Satisfactory record in tertiary studies” is defined as follows:</p> <p>Applicants must present evidence of one-year full-time university study in which the language of the institution was English, and the language of instruction, examination and assessment was English. To be “satisfactory” the applicant must have a pass average if this qualification was not used to gain admission. The study must have been undertaken at a recognised institution. Where a university has two official languages, one being English, proof must be received from the Registrar/Academic Affairs office or equivalent that the applicant’s course was conducted in English.</p> <p>The above definition of</p>	2 July 2008

		"satisfactory achievement" should be applied for local and international postgraduate applicants, where English is not their first language.	
Sydney Conservatorium of Music	All postgraduate award courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with no band less than 6.5 	2 November 2005
	Graduate Certificate of Music Studies (Pedagogy), Graduate Diploma of Music Studies (Pedagogy) and Master of Music Studies (Pedagogy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 	2 November 2005
	Graduate Certificate of Music Studies (Creative Sound Production), Graduate Diploma of Music Studies (Creative Sound Production) and Master of Music Studies (Creative Sound Production)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 	2 November 2005
	the Graduate Diploma of Music (Performance) and Master of Music Studies (Performance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band of 6.0 	2 November 2005

Appendix Two: English Language Skills Tests Conversion Table

Overall Score	IELTS (Academic version)	TOEFL PB	TOEFL IBT	
	5.5	513	65	
	6.0	550	80	
	6.5	577	90	
	7.0	600	100	
	7.5	637	110	
Individual Skills Test	R/L/S/W	TWE	R/L/S	Writing
	5.0	4	20	21
	5.5		21	22
	6.0	4.5	22	23
	6.5		23	24
	7.0	5	24	25
	7.5		25	26
	8.0	6	27	27

***IELTS Band Descriptors:**

BAND 5: Modest User- has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.

BAND 6: Competent User- has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

BAND 7: Good User- has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

*the listed band descriptors have been taken from the IELTS website, www.ielts.org