

ADMISSIONS STANDARDS – ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

1 Definitions

- (1) Words and phrases used in these standards and not otherwise defined in this document have the meanings they have in the [Coursework Policy 2014](#).
- (2) In these standards:

IB	means the International Baccalaureate
CAE	means Cambridge English: Advanced
CPE	means Cambridge English: Proficiency
GCE	means the General Certificate of Education
HKDSE	means the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education
IELTS	means the International English Language Testing System
IGCSE	means the International General Certificate of Secondary Education
IGCSE English	means IGCSE First language English, IGCSE Second language English, IGCSE Literature, Singapore-Cambridge O-level, UK OCR level English
STPM	means the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia
TOEFL	means the Test of English as a Foreign Language
TOEFL IBT	means internet based TOEFL
TWE	means the Test of Written English (completed as part of a paper-based TOEFL)
UK A Level English	means the GCE English subject that has been undertaken at full Advanced (A2) level
UK AS Level English	Means the GCE English Language and Literature subject or English Language subject.
UK A Levels Humanities	means any of the following GCE A Level humanities subjects: History, Humanities, Philosophy – Critical Thinking, Politics, Law, Religion, Sociology and Psychology

2 Applicants whose first language is English

- (1) In order to satisfy the requirements of clauses 21A and 23A of the [Coursework Policy 2014](#), or section 7.1 of the [University of Sydney \(Higher Degree by](#)

[Research\) Rule 2011](#) the applicant must have citizenship or permanent long-term residency (minimum ten years) from one or more of the following countries and have completed secondary or tertiary study from one of the following countries:

- (a) American Samoa
- (b) Australia
- (c) Botswana
- (d) Canada (excluding Quebec)
- (e) Fiji
- (f) Ghana
- (g) Guyana
- (h) Ireland
- (i) Jamaica
- (j) Kenya
- (k) Lesotho
- (l) Liberia
- (m) New Zealand
- (n) Nigeria
- (o) Papua New Guinea
- (p) Samoa
- (q) Singapore
- (r) Solomon Islands
- (s) South Africa
- (t) Tonga
- (u) Trinidad and Tobago
- (v) United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland)
- (w) United States of America
- (x) Zambia
- (y) Zimbabwe

3 Applicants whose first language is not English – secondary qualifications

- (1) These standards apply to undergraduate coursework applicants:
 - (a) whose first language is not English;
 - (b) who wish to demonstrate English proficiency through secondary qualifications; and
 - (c) who, if successful, will commence studies after 1 January 2019.
- (2) Applicants seeking admission to an undergraduate award course on the basis of satisfactory achievement in secondary studies must have completed senior secondary study.

- (3) An applicant whose first language is not English must have:
 - (a) achieved a record of satisfactory achievement in secondary studies within five years of the date on which they will commence the course:
 - (i) in an English speaking country; or
 - (ii) in which the instruction and assessment were entirely in English; or
 - (b) achieved a record of satisfactory achievement in secondary studies within two years of the date on which they will commence the course:
 - (i) not undertaken in English; but
 - (ii) which meets the requirements listed in Table 1 or Table 2.
- (4) An applicant for admission to an undergraduate award course in a faculty that has set English language requirements above the minimum requirements set out in subclause 3(3) must meet the faculty's requirements, as approved by the Academic Board.

Note: These faculty requirements must be approved by the Academic Board in accordance with the [University of Sydney \(Delegations of Authority – Academic Functions\) Rule 2016](#).

4 Applicants whose first language is not English – tertiary studies

- (1) These standards apply to undergraduate and postgraduate coursework, and higher degree by research, applicants:
 - (a) whose first language is not English;
 - (b) who wish to demonstrate English proficiency through tertiary studies; and
 - (c) who, if successful, will commence studies after 1 January 2019.
- (2) An applicant whose first language is not English must have achieved a record of satisfactory achievement in tertiary studies:
 - (a) within five years of the date on which they will commence the course;
 - (b) at a provider approved by the University;
 - (c) in which the language of instruction and assessment was English; and
 - (d) in which the duration of study was at least one year of full-time or equivalent part time.
- (3) Applicants seeking admission to an undergraduate award course on the basis of satisfactory achievement in tertiary studies must have completed at least one year of full-time (or equivalent part-time) tertiary study.

5 Applicants whose first language is not English – English language test scores

- (1) These standards apply to all undergraduate and postgraduate coursework, and higher degree by research, applicants:
 - (a) whose first language is not English;
 - (b) who wish to demonstrate English language proficiency through an English language skills test score;
 - (c) who, if successful, will commence studies after 1 January 2019.

- (2) An applicant whose first language is not English must have achieved within two years of the date on which the applicant will commence the course an IELTS overall band score of:
 - (a) 6.5, with at least 6.0 in each band; or
 - (b) an equivalent score as listed in Table 3.
- (3) An applicant for admission to an award course in a faculty that has set English language requirements above the minimum requirements set out in subclause 5(2) must meet the faculty's requirements as approved by the Academic Board and listed in Table 4 (undergraduate courses) and Table 5 (postgraduate courses).

Note: These faculty requirements must be approved by the Academic Board in accordance with the [University of Sydney \(Delegations of Authority – Academic Functions\) Rule 2016](#).
- (4) The Head of School and Dean of the Sydney College of the Arts may, on application and at their discretion, admit to the Bachelor of Visual Arts an applicant who has achieved an IELTS overall band score of 6.0.
- (5) The Head of School and Dean of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music may, on application and at their discretion, admit to the Diploma of Music an applicant who has achieved an IELTS overall band score of 6.0.

6 Other applicants whose first language is not English

- (1) These standards apply to all undergraduate and postgraduate coursework, and higher degree by research applicants:
 - (a) whose first language is not English;
 - (b) who wish to demonstrate English proficiency otherwise than in accordance with clauses 3 – 5; and
 - (c) who, if successful, will commence studies after 1 January 2019.
- (2) An applicant whose first language is not English must have:
 - (a) lived and worked in an English speaking country specified in subclause 2(1) continuously for at least five years prior to the date on which they will commence the course; or
 - (b) current registration with an accreditation body that has an English language requirement equivalent to, or higher than, the standards otherwise required by the University.

7 Exceptional circumstances

- (1) In exceptional circumstances, a Dean may determine that an applicant demonstrates English language proficiency requirements by means other than those prescribed in these standards, provided that:
 - (a) the applicant must have:
 - (i) an IELTS score or equivalent as specified in Table 3; and
 - (ii) an overall or average band score no more than 0.5 below the overall or average band score otherwise required; and
 - (iii) no individual band score more than 1.0 below the individual band score otherwise required; or



- (b) the Dean is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated enough competence in written and spoken English to complete the course successfully.
- (2) For undergraduate applicants, the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee of the Academic Board may, in exceptional circumstances, modify the limits prescribed in subclause 7(1)(a), as they apply in a particular case.
- (3) For postgraduate coursework and higher degree by research applicants, the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Academic Board may, in exceptional circumstances, modify the limits prescribed in subclause 7(1)(a), as they apply in a particular case.
- (4) In considering whether an applicant has demonstrated enough competence in written and spoken English to complete the course successfully, the Dean:
 - (a) must take into account any advice of the relevant Associate Dean; and
 - (b) may consider any other relevant matter, including:
 - (i) the applicant's ability to communicate in an academic environment;
 - (ii) whether the applicant has been known to the faculty for at least two years;
 - (iii) any appropriate work experience that the applicant has had in an English language environment; and
 - (iv) any oral discussions between faculty members and the applicant.
- (5) The Dean must record in writing on the student file any approval to waive English language requirements, including:
 - (a) the proof of proficiency in English provided by the applicant; and
 - (b) the Dean's reasons for granting the exemption.

TABLE 1

Concordance estimates for qualifications used to provide evidence of English language proficiency

IELTS Score	UK A Level English	Singapore-Cambridge A Levels: English Language and Linguistics	HKDSE English Language and Literature in English	STPM Literature (920)	UK A Levels Humanities	UK AS Levels English	IGCSE English	IB English A – Higher Level	IB English A – Standard Level	IB English B – Higher Level	IB English B – Standard Level
5.5	E	E	3	E	D	D	C		3		
6.0	D	D	4	D	C	C	A/B	3	4		
6.5	B/C	B/C	5	B/C	A/B	A/B		4	5	4	5
7.0	A	A	5*	A				5	6		
7.5	A*		5**					6	7		
8.0								7			
8.5											

TABLE 2

Subject and grade requirements guide for accepted secondary qualifications not undertaken in English

Qualification/subject	Grade requirement
Denmark Studentereksamen	8 in English A or 10 in English B
Finland Upper Secondary School Certificate	8 in English or English A Language
Germany Abitur	3 in Advanced Level English (LF)
Netherlands VWO	8 in Level 6 High School English
Norway Vitnemal	4 in English
STPM Literature	B/C
Sweden Avgangsbetyg/Slutbetyg	VG or C in English

TABLE 3

English Language Skills Tests conversion table – Overall scores

IELTS Academic	TOEFL Paper Based Test (pre-October 2017)*	TOEFL IBT	PTE Academic	Cambridge English Scale: CAE and CPE (from 2015)	
5.5	506	62	46	162	
6.0	534	73	54	169	
6.5	577	85	61	176	
7.0	592	96	68	185	
7.5	617	105	76	191	
8.0	635	112	79	200	
8.5	651	117	84	205	
9.0	664	120	88	209	
English language Individual skills tests					
R/L/S/W	TWE	R/L/S	W	Section	Section
5.5	4	14	16	46	162
6.0	4.5	17	19	54	169
6.5	4.5	20	22	61	176
7.0	5	23	25	68	185
7.5	5.5	25	27	76	191
8.0	6	27	29	79	200
8.5	6	29	29	84	205
9.0	6	30	30	88	209

Note: Scores from TOEFL Paper Based Tests taken after 14 October 2017 are not accepted.

TABLE 4

Faculty-specific English Language Requirements – Undergraduate

Faculty/Course	English Language Requirements
Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning	
All undergraduate courses	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the components (this applies to non-UAC admissions only)
Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honours) / Master of Architecture	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the components (this applies to non-UAC admissions only)
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	
Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Media and Communications)	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.5 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Economics / Bachelor of Advanced Studies, Bachelor of Economics / Bachelor of Laws	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Education (all streams)	IELTS: Minimum overall result of 7.5 Minimum of 8.0 in speaking and listening modules Minimum of 7.0 in reading and writing modules
Sydney Business School	
All undergraduate courses except combined law and Bachelor of Commerce / Doctor of Medicine (see below)	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the components
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies	
Bachelor of Engineering Honours / Bachelor of Commerce	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Information Technologies / Bachelor of Commerce	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Engineering Honours (Civil) / Bachelor of Design in Architecture	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the components

Faculty of Health Sciences	
Bachelor of Health Sciences (including combined degrees)	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology)	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy)	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy)	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sports Science) / Master of Nutrition and Dietetics	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.5 in each of the components
Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology)	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.5 in each of the components
Sydney Law School	
All undergraduate courses	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.5 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Faculty of Medicine and Health	
Bachelor of Science / Doctor of Medicine	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Arts / Doctor of Medicine	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Nursing and Midwifery combined degrees	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies)	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Science / Doctor of Dental Medicine	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components
Bachelor of Oral Health	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components



Faculty of Science	
Bachelor of Science / Master of Nutrition and Dietetics	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 6.5 in each of the components
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology / Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components

TABLE 5

Faculty-specific English Language Requirements – Postgraduate

Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning	
All postgraduate (coursework and research) 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.
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	
Executive Master of Arts and Social Sciences	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Art Curating, Graduate Diploma in Art Curating, Graduate Certificate in Art Curating	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Creative Writing, Graduate Diploma in Creative Writing, Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing	IELTS overall 7.0 with a minimum of 7.0 in the Writing band and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Crosscultural and Applied Linguistics, Graduate Diploma in Crosscultural and Applied Linguistics, Graduate Certificate in Crosscultural and Applied Linguistics	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Cultural Studies, Graduate Diploma in Cultural Studies, Graduate Certificate in Cultural Studies	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Development Studies, Graduate Diploma in Development Studies, Graduate Certificate in Development Studies	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Digital Communication and Culture, Graduate Diploma in Digital Communication and Culture, Graduate Certificate in Digital Communication and Culture	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Economic Analysis, Graduate Diploma in Economic Analysis	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.5 in other bands
Master of Economics, Graduate Diploma in Economics, Graduate Certificate in Economics	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands

Master of English Studies, Graduate Diploma in English Studies, Graduate Certificate in English Studies	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Health Communication, Graduate Diploma in Health Communication, Graduate Certificate in Health Communication	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Health Security, Graduate Diploma in Health Security, Graduate Certificate in Health Security	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Human Rights, Graduate Diploma in Human Rights, Graduate Certificate in Human Rights	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of International Relations, Graduate Diploma in International Relations, Graduate Certificate in International Relations, Graduate Certificate in Economics	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of International Security, Graduate Diploma in International Security, Graduate Certificate in International Security	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of International Studies, Graduate Diploma in International Studies, Graduate Certificate in International Studies	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Media Practice, Graduate Diploma in Media Practice, Graduate Certificate in Media Practice	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Museum and Heritage Studies, Graduate Diploma in Museum and Heritage Studies, Graduate Certificate in Museum and Heritage Studies	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, Graduate Diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies, Graduate Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Political Economy, Graduate Diploma in Political Economy, Graduate Certificate in Political Economy	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Public Policy, Graduate Diploma in Public Policy, Graduate Certificate in Public Policy	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands

Master of Publishing, Graduate Diploma in Publishing, Graduate Certificate in Publishing	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of Strategic Public Relations, Graduate Diploma in Strategic Public Relations, Graduate Certificate in Strategic Public Relations	IELTS overall 7.0 and a minimum of 6.0 in other bands
Master of US Studies, Graduate Diploma in US Studies, Graduate Certificate in US Studies	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
Master of Teaching	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
Master of Social Work (Qualifying)	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better with minimum of 7.0 in each band
Sydney Business School	
Executive Master of Business Administration	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0
Master of Business Administration (Leadership and Enterprise)	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0
Master of Commerce (and embedded sequences)	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0
Master of Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations (and embedded sequences)	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0
Master of International Business (and embedded sequences)	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0
Master of Logistics and Supply Chain Management (and embedded sequences)	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0
Master of Management, Master of Management (CEMS)	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0
Master of Professional Accounting	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0
All research degrees	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with a section minimum of 6.5
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies	
Master of Professional Engineering	IELTS – A minimum result of 7.0 overall and a minimum result of 6.0 in each band

Master of Complex Systems, Graduate Diploma in Complex Systems	IELTS – A minimum result of 7.0 overall and a minimum result of 6.0 in each band
Faculty of Health Sciences	
Master of Diagnostic Radiography	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 6.5 for Speaking and for Writing on each band
Master of Exercise Physiology	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 in each of the components
Master of Occupational Therapy	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7 in each of the components
Master of Physiotherapy	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7 in each of the components
Master of Speech Language Pathology	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 in each of the components
Sydney Conservatorium of Music	
All postgraduate (coursework and research) award course except for those below	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with no band less than 6.5
Master of Music Studies (Composition)	IELTS – Overall band of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0
Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance), Graduate Diploma in Music (Opera Performance)	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with no band less than 6.0
Graduate Diploma of Music (Performance) Master of Music Studies (Performance)	IELTS – Overall band of 6.0
Sydney Law School	
Juris Doctor	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better with a minimum of 7.0 in each band
All other postgraduate (coursework and research) award courses	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 6.0 in each of the components
Faculty of Medicine and Health	
Master of Bioethics, Graduate Diploma in Bioethics, Graduate Certificate in Bioethics	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 6.5 in each of the components
Doctor of Clinical Dentistry, Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Dentistry	IELTS 7.0 with no band below 7.0
Doctor of Dental Medicine	IELTS 7.0 with no band below 7.0

Doctor of Medicine	IELTS – overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum of 7.0 in each band
Master of Clinical Trials Research, Graduate Diploma in Clinical Trials Research, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials Research	IELTS – overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum of 7.0 in each band
<p>Master of Medicine (stream), Master of Medicine (Advanced) (stream), Master of Science in Medicine (stream), Master of Science in Medicine (Advanced) (stream), Master of Medicine (stream)/Master of Philosophy, Master of Science in Medicine (stream)/Master of Philosophy, Graduate Diploma in Medicine (stream), Graduate Diploma in Science in Medicine (stream), Graduate Certificate in Medicine (stream), Graduate Certificate in Science in Medicine (stream).</p> <p>This applies only to the following streams: Critical Care Medicine, Clinical Neurophysiology, Child & Adolescent Health, General Practice & Primary Health Care, Internal Medicine, Metabolic Health, Paediatric Medicine, Psychiatry, Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Development, Sexual & Reproductive Health, Sleep Medicine, and Trauma Informed Psychotherapy</p>	IELTS – overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum of 6.5 in each band
Nursing and Midwifery - All postgraduate (coursework and research) award courses	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 in each of the components
Pharmacy - All postgraduate award courses, with the exception of the Master of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy and Graduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Complementary Medicines	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.5
Faculty of Science	
Master of Clinical Psychology Master of Clinical Psychology/Doctor of Philosophy	<p>IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with no band less than 7.0</p> <p>Additional English language requirements apply under the current Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) standards for registration. Where these are inconsistent with University of Sydney standards, the higher standard will apply.</p>
Master of Science in Coaching Psychology; Graduate Diploma in Coaching Psychology; Graduate Certificate in Coaching Psychology	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 as a minimum on each band with no band falling below a score of 6.0



Master of Environmental Science and Law	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with no band less than 6.0
Master of Nutrition and Dietetics	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better, with at least 6.5 in each of the components
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better with a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the components.