

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
UNDERGRADUATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT REQUIRE A STUDENT VISA (AND NATIONALS OF 'MAJORITY ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES')

▪ **Overview of English language requirements:**

The English language requirements in this table apply to all applicants who do not require a Student visa to study in the UK or are nationals of majority English speaking countries (as defined by the UK Home Office list). The table below shows the English language qualifications and tests that are acceptable for entry to the University of Essex and the levels required. The levels are the minimum entry requirements for admission to the University.

If you are not a national of a majority English-speaking country as defined by the UK Home Office, and you require a Student visa to study in the UK, please see <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/documents/admissions/englishInternational.pdf> for the correct English language requirements.

▪ **English qualifications or tests taken over five years ago:**

The conditions of your offer may include an English language requirement if your previous English language qualification was taken more than five years before the start of the course you are applying for at Essex. If you are unsure why your offer specifies an additional English language test, please contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office and we will be happy to clarify this for you.

▪ **Test dates/shelf life**

For all of the tests listed in this table except Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic and TOEFL, we can accept a test taken up to 5 years before the start of the course you are applying for at Essex.

PTE Academic and TOEFL tests must be verifiable online by the University at the point that any offer is made. Verification is only available online within 3 years of the date of the test for PTE Academic and within 2 years of the date of the test for TOEFL.

The conditions of your offer may include an English language requirement if your previous English language qualification was outside of the period specified above for the test you have taken. If you are unsure why your offer specifies an additional English language test, please email ugquery@essex.ac.uk and we will be happy to clarify this for you.

▪ **Courses with different English language requirements than those listed in this table:**

- **BA Multimedia Journalism** – IELTS 7.0 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component
- **Nursing, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy** - More information can be found in our English language requirements for applicants to pre-registration courses:
<https://www1.essex.ac.uk/documents/admissions/hscleltsAndEquivalents.pdf>

▪ **English qualifications or tests not listed in the table:**

If you are taking an English language qualification that is not specified below, please email ugquery@essex.ac.uk for advice on whether it is acceptable for entry.

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English Language test/qualification	Minimum Level required		
	See first page for information about your test date and the shelf life of your test		
	First Year Entry (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)	Second and Final Year Direct Entry (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)	Essex Pathways degrees including foundation year (Home/EU applicants only)
IELTS (Academic) IELTS Online (Academic) IELTS (Academic) One Skill Retake IELTS Indicator	6.0 overall	6.5 overall	5.5 overall
TOEFL (iBT) TOEFL iBT Online - Special Home Edition TOEFL - My Best Scores	76 overall	88 overall	72 overall
Pearson Test of English Academic We do not accept PTE online	60 overall	62 overall	59 overall

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English Language test/qualification	Minimum Level required		
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	First Year Entry (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)	Second and Final Year Direct Entry (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)	Essex Pathways degrees including foundation year (Home/EU applicants only)
Cambridge English Qualifications: C1 Advanced (Certificate in Advanced English) or C2 Proficiency (Certificate of Proficiency in English)	A score of 169 overall on the Cambridge English Scale	A score of 176 overall on the Cambridge English Scale	A score of 162 overall on the Cambridge English Scale
Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE) Level III and IV	Pass	Pass	Pass
Michigan English Test – Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE)	Successful completion of the ECPE Certificate of Proficiency with Pass overall	Successful completion of the ECPE Certificate of Proficiency with Pass overall	Successful completion of the ECPE Certificate of Proficiency with Pass overall
Oxford International Digital Institute Online Pre-sessional English Course (OPSE) or Online English Language Level Test (ELLT) / ELLT Global	B2+ or 6 overall	C1 or 7 overall	B2 or 5 overall
Oxford Test of English – Certificate of Proficiency	126 overall	140 overall	111 overall

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English Language test/qualification	Minimum Level required		
	See first page for information about your test date and the shelf life of your test		
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KTE (Kaplan Test of English) Kaplan Digital Pre-Sessional English or Kaplan Digital Pre-Sessional English Plus	426	459	396
British Academic Centre International English Test (BACIET)	6.0 overall	6.5 overall	5.5 overall
Skills for English: SELT	B2 Pass with Merit	B2 Pass with Merit	B2 Pass
LanguageCert Academic LanguageCert Academic (when taken at a test centre)	65 overall	70 overall	60 overall
International Baccalaureate	Standard Level or Higher Level grade 4 in any of the below modules:	Standard Level or Higher Level grade 4 in any of the below modules: English A: Language and Literature	Standard Level or Higher Level grade 4 in any of the below modules: English A: Language and Literature

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	English A: Language and Literature English A: Literature English B English Literature and Performance	English A: Literature English B English Literature and Performance	English A: Literature English B English Literature and Performance
English Language test/qualification	Minimum Level required See first page for information about your test date and the shelf life of your test		
	First Year Entry (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)	Second and Final Year Direct Entry (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)	Essex Pathways degrees including foundation year (Home/EU applicants only)
IGCSE/GCSE/Cambridge O-Level English (as a first or second language)	Grade C or 4	Grade C or 4	Grade C or 4
Pre-sessional English course at the University of Essex	If you do not meet the IELTS requirements then you may be able to take a pre-sessional English pathway that enables you to meet our English language requirements without retaking IELTS. These courses are delivered by the University of Essex International College. Please see our website for further information: https://www.essex.ac.uk/international/pre-sessional . Our pre-sessional English courses are normally only valid for entry to a main course which starts immediately after the pre-sessional course. If you take a pre-sessional English course but then are not able to start your main course in October, the pre-sessional course will not normally remain valid. If we can offer you a later start date for your main course, we may ask you for an alternative proof of your English language proficiency.		

Last updated 7 February 2025