



# Pre-degree English Language Proficiency Requirements and International English Language Equivalencies

---

## Overview

The University of Waikato sets standards for English language proficiency for admission to the University for applicants whose first language is not English or te reo Māori. All international applicants, as well as New Zealand and Australian permanent visa holders, are required to provide satisfactory evidence of their proficiency in English.

The purpose of this document is to outline what will be accepted as satisfactory evidence for this requirement.

Please contact [waikatocollege@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:waikatocollege@waikato.ac.nz) for any queries relating to this document.

## **Contents**

1. Students whose first language is English or te reo Māori .....	3
2. Certificate of Attainment in Foundation Studies (CAFS) .....	3
3. International Diplomas (IntDip(Bus and IntDip(CompSc)) .....	4
4. Diploma in Postgraduate Preparation – Pre-Masters (DipPP) .....	5
5. Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL) .....	6
6. Prior Study in English .....	8
7. Waivers .....	8
8. Country Specific Qualifications .....	8

## APPENDIX 1: English Language Entry Requirements (pre-degree)

Applicants whose first language is not English or te reo Māori are required to provide satisfactory evidence of English language proficiency, generally in the form of an IELTS (academic) or TOEFL examination score. Scores can vary according to the qualification sought.

International applicants who have achieved literacy through NCEA, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge International in New Zealand are not required to provide further evidence of English language proficiency. IELTS and TOEFL may not be used as replacements for these literacy requirements.

### 1. Students whose first language is English or te reo Māori

English will be considered the first language of citizens (passport holders) of the following countries, regardless of their actual place of residence and, who have evidence of successful tertiary study or a senior secondary qualification in the English medium:

- The United Kingdom
- NZ
- Australia
- The Republic of Ireland
- The United States of America
- Canada (including all provinces, if the qualification has been taught in English)
- Singapore

International applicants with te reo Māori as their first language will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Divisions.

### 2. Certificate of Attainment in Foundation Studies (CAFS)

All test results are valid for two years from the date of the test to the proposed start date at the University of Waikato. The requirements must be met within one sitting, unless stated otherwise, or on one certificate.

	CAFS (standard)
<b>IELTS (Academic) (Includes One Skill Retake (OSR) and Indicator<sup>1</sup>)</b>	IELTS score of 5.5 (with at least 5.0 in the Writing band)
<b>iBT TOEFL (internet based and home versions)</b>	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 14
<b>Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic<sup>2</sup></b>	PTE Academic overall score of 36 and no band score lower than 29
<b>Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)</b>	B grade or better at level 6
<b>New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL)</b>	Level 3 (Applied)
<b>Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English</b>	ISE II with no less than Pass in any band

<sup>1</sup> Students who are accepted using the IELTS Indicator will be required to undertake a supplementary language assessment.

<sup>2</sup> PTE Academic Online is not accepted

## APPENDIX 1: English Language Entry Requirements (pre-degree)

Language Cert - International ESOL	B1 Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with high Pass and no less than a Pass in each skill
Language Cert - International ESOL	B2 Communicator IESOL (LRWS) with Pass and no less than Pass in each skill
B1 & B2 (formally known as Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))	With an overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
C2 Proficiency (formally known as Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))	With an overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
Michigan English Test (formally known as Michigan Language Assessment Battery (MELAB))	Minimum score of 50
Duolingo English Test (DET)	95

All other evidence is considered on a case-by-case basis.

### 3. International Diplomas (IntDip(Bus and IntDip(CompSc))

All test results are valid for two years from the date of the test to the proposed start date at the University of Waikato. The requirements must be met within one sitting, unless stated otherwise, or on one certificate.

IELTS (Academic) (Includes One Skill Retake (OSR) and Indicator <sup>3</sup> )	IELTS score of 5.5 (no band less than a 5.0 in any band or equivalent)
iBT TOEFL (internet based and home versions)	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 14
Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic <sup>4</sup>	Overall score of 36 and no band score lower than 29
Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)	B grade or better with a B in Writing at level 6
New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL)	Level 3 (Applied)
Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English	ISE II with no less than a merit in any band
Language Cert - International ESOL	B1 Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with a High Pass and no less than a Pass in each skill
Language Cert - International ESOL	B2 Communicator IESOL (LRWS) with a Pass and no less than a Pass in each skill
B1 & B2 Proficiency (formally known as Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE))	Overall score of 162 and no bands below 154

<sup>3</sup> Students who are accepted using the IELTS Indicator will be required to undertake a supplementary language assessment.

<sup>4</sup> PTE Academic Online is not accepted

## APPENDIX 1: English Language Entry Requirements (pre-degree)

<b>Michigan English Test (formally known as Michigan Language Assessment Battery (MELAB))</b>	50
<b>Duolingo English Test (DET)</b>	95

### 4. Diploma in Postgraduate Preparation – Pre-Masters (DipPP)

All test results are valid for two years from the date of the test to the proposed start date at the University of Waikato. The requirements must be met within one sitting, unless stated otherwise, or on one certificate.

<b>IELTS (Academic) (Includes One Skill Retake (OSR) and Indicator<sup>5</sup>)</b>	Overall score of 6.0 (with no less than 5.5 in any band)
<b>iBT TOEFL (internet based and home versions)</b>	Overall score of 80 with a minimum writing score of 21
<b>Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)</b>	B grade or better at Level 7
<b>Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic<sup>6</sup></b>	Overall score of 46 with no band less than 36
<b>Language Cert - International ESOL</b>	B2 Communicator (LRWS) with 33-37 score per skill
<b>New Zealand Certificate in English Language</b>	(Academic) (Level 4)
<b>Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE)</b>	ISE II with distinction in all four components
<b>B2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge Proficiency Exam CPE)</b>	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
<b>C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge Proficiency Exam CPE)</b>	Overall score of 169 and no bands below 162
<b>Michigan English Test (formally known as Michigan Language Assessment Battery (MELAB))</b>	Minimum score of 54
<b>Duolingo English Test (DET)</b>	105

All other evidence is considered on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>5</sup> Students who are accepted using the IELTS Indicator will be required to undertake a supplementary language assessment.

<sup>6</sup> PTE Academic Online is not accepted

## APPENDIX 1: English Language Entry Requirements (pre-degree)

### 5. Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)

All test results are valid for two years from the date of the test to the proposed start date at the University of Waikato. The requirements must be met within one test sitting or on one certificate.

	IELTS Academic	PBT TOEFL	Duolingo	iBT TOEFL	Pearson (PTE)	NZCEL	Trinity ISE	Language Cert	Cambridge English
CAEL level 1	IELTS score below 4.0								
CAEL level 2									
CAEL level 3									
CAEL level 4	IELTS score of 4.0 overall (4.0 in the writing band and no less than 3.5 in the other bands), or equivalent assessed on a case-by-case basis								
CAEL level 5	IELTS score of 4.5 overall (4.5 in the writing band and no less than 4.0 in the other bands)	n/a	65-79	Overall score of 32-34 overall, with a writing score of 12	PTE Academic overall score of 34	Level 2	ISE I with no less than a merit in any band	n/a	147

## APPENDIX 1: English Language Entry Requirements (pre-degree)

<b>CAEL level 6</b>	IELTS score of 5.0 overall (5.0 in the writing band and no less than 4.5 in the other bands)	Overall score of 33 with writing score of 14	80-94	Overall score of 35 overall with a writing score of 14	PTE Academic overall score of 36 and no band score lower than 36	Level 3 (general)	ISE I with no less than distinction in any band	B1 Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with Pass and no less than Pass in each skill	B1 & B2: overall score of 154 and no bands below 147
<b>CAEL level 7</b>	IELTS score of 5.5 overall (5.5 in the writing band and no less than 5.0 in the other bands)	Overall score of 44 with writing score of 14	95-104	Overall score of 46 overall with a writing score of 14	PTE Academic overall score of 42 and no band score lower than 36	Level 3 Applied	ISE II with no less than pass in any band	B2 Communicator Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with Pass and no less than Pass in each skill	B1 & B2: overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
<b>CAEL level 8</b>	IELTS score of 6.0 overall (6.0 in the writing band and no less than 5.5 in the other bands)	Overall score of 60 with writing score of 21	105-115	Overall score of 80 overall, with a writing score of 21	Overall score of 50 and no band score lower than 42	Level 4 (academic)	ISE II with distinction in all 4 components	C1 Expert (LRWS) with a Pass overall and no less than a pass in each skill	C1 & C2: overall score of 169 and no bands below 162

## APPENDIX 1: English Language Entry Requirements (pre-degree)

### 6. Prior Study in English

- 5.1. For admission into Foundation Studies Programmes, and International Diplomas through Foundation Studies Programmes, please contact University of Waikato College to discuss: [waikatocollege@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:waikatocollege@waikato.ac.nz)
- 5.2. For admission into Foundation Studies Programmes and International Diplomas through English Language Programmes:

Programme	Grade required for entry to CAFS accelerated	Grade required for entry to CAFS standard	Grade required for entry to international diploma	Grade required for entry to DipPP
Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)	B grade with a B in Writing at level 6	B grade at level 6	B grade with a B in Writing at level 6	B grade at level 7
NZCEL	Level 3 Applied	Level 3 Applied	Level 3 Applied	Level 4 Academic

Students who have completed an Academic English programme at another institution in New Zealand will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### 7. Waivers

Students who do not meet the English language admission requirements as outlined above may in some circumstance be granted a waiver. Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### 8. Country Specific Qualifications

See [pathways.waikato.ac.nz/admissions/entry-requirements](https://pathways.waikato.ac.nz/admissions/entry-requirements) for satisfactory evidence of proficiency in English for a select list of countries.