

# Undergraduate fact sheet 8: English language proficiency



English language proficiency is an admission requirement for all tertiary courses; however, most people – including Australian Year 12 students – do not need to prove their proficiency.

The following information refers to requirements for undergraduate courses only. Different requirements may apply for postgraduate courses.

Visit [www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/elp.shtml](http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/elp.shtml) for individual requirements at each institution.

## Do I have to demonstrate proficiency in English?

If you have an assessable qualification (see below) that was undertaken in English from one of the following countries, you **do not** have to prove your proficiency in English:

- |                  |                       |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| ■ American Samoa | ■ Lesotho             | ■ United Kingdom<br>(including Northern Ireland) |
| ■ Australia      | ■ Liberia             | ■ United States of America                       |
| ■ Botswana       | ■ New Zealand         | ■ Zambia   |
| ■ Canada         | ■ Nigeria             | ■ Zimbabwe.                                      |
| ■ Fiji           | ■ Papua New Guinea    |  |
| ■ Ghana          | ■ Singapore           |  |
| ■ Guyana         | ■ Solomon Islands     |  |
| ■ Ireland        | ■ South Africa        |  |
| ■ Jamaica        | ■ Tonga               |  |
| ■ Kenya          | ■ Trinidad and Tobago |  |

Being born in Australia or one of the countries listed above does not automatically pass you for English proficiency. You must also have at least one assessable qualification from one of the countries listed.

## What is an assessable qualification?

Assessable qualifications from the countries listed above that may be accepted by institutions as satisfying English proficiency include:

- senior secondary studies, comparable with the NSW HSC
- one full year of Australian or comparable tertiary studies, including RATE Associate Diploma and Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor degree and postgraduate studies
- Australian or comparable non-award studies
- tertiary preparation courses, including the NSW TAFE Tertiary Preparation Certificate (TPC), with a full-time equivalence of one year.

The following qualifications may also be accepted by institutions as satisfying English proficiency if you were born in *and* undertook the qualification in one of the countries listed above:

- other post-secondary studies, including Certificate and Advanced Certificate
- Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT).

## What do institutions accept as proof of proficiency in English?

Each institution outlines the qualifications or test results they accept as proof of proficiency in English. These requirements can be found on UAC's website at [www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/elp.shtml](http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/elp.shtml). Read these requirements carefully.

## What if I don't have the required tests or qualifications?

If you don't have the required tests or qualifications, you can sit an English proficiency test (see below for details on how to register). If you need to sit a test, submit your UAC application first and include details of your proposed test in the English language proficiency question.

Provide UAC with a copy of your results as soon as you receive them. Refer to *Undergraduate fact sheet 7: Providing documents*.

## What if I believe I can demonstrate my proficiency in English but cannot find the test or qualification on UAC's website?

If you believe you can demonstrate your proficiency in English but your tests or qualifications are not mentioned on UAC's website, write to the Admissions Office at each institution to which you are applying and include supporting documentation so that the institution can determine whether the test or qualification is acceptable. The institution will make a decision and will record that decision against your application.

**Do not send this information to UAC** – we cannot make decisions about your English proficiency on behalf of institutions.

## How do I register for an English proficiency test?

Contact the individual test centres directly.

Before you register, check with the institution to make sure it will accept the test results as proof of English language proficiency for the course you want to study.

### International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Academic

Visit [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) for details on IELTS costs, test venues and dates.

### Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

For details on TOEFL costs, test venues and dates, visit [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).

UAC's TOEFL Designated Institution code is 8619. If you want your results to be sent directly to UAC, enter this code on your answer sheets when you sit the TOEFL examination or on the Score Report Request Forms for tests previously taken.

### Pearson Test of English (PTE): Academic

For details on PTE Academic costs, test venues and dates, visit [www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com).

UAC's PTE Academic institution code is LL5.

### Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)

For details on CAE, visit [www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/advanced](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/advanced).

### Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)

For details on CPE, visit [www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/proficiency](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/proficiency).

## How do I provide results of my test to UAC?

You must provide UAC with a copy of your results as soon as you receive them. Refer to *Undergraduate fact sheet 7: Providing documents*.



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