

NOTE: Effective from Trimester 1 2024

Admission Schedule: English Language Proficiency

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1.0 Purpose

This Schedule sets out how applicants to the University can demonstrate they meet the English language proficiency (ELP) requirement of their relevant Coursework programs and Higher Degrees by Research (HDR).

2.0 Scope

This Schedule applies to applicants seeking admission to the University to study coursework undergraduate, postgraduate, non-award and HDR programs regardless of their citizenship, campus or teaching location of their Griffith studies.

Professionally accredited programs with higher level requirements will have these requirements listed in the relevant [Degree Finder](#) entry under Language Requirements.

3.0 Schedule

3.1 University-Recognised English-Speaking Countries

Australia	Cook Islands	Jamaica	Nigeria	St Lucia
Antigua & Barbuda	Dominica	Kenya	Papua New Guinea	Tanzania
American Samoa	Falkland Islands	Kiribati	Philippines	Trinidad & Tobago
Bahamas	Fiji	Liberia	Samoa	Uganda
Barbados	Gambia	Malawi	Seychelles	United Kingdom
Belize	Ghana	Maldives	Sierra Leone	United States of America
Bermuda	Gibraltar	Mauritius	Singapore	Vanuatu
Botswana	Grenada	Namibia	Solomon Islands	Zambia

Cameroon	Guyana	Nauru	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Canada*	Ireland	New Zealand	St Kitts & Nevis	

*excluding Quebec

3.2 Demonstrating English Language Proficiency Requirements

Evidence used to demonstrate an applicant's English language proficiency may be:

- First language is English, with evidence of prior study within a University-recognised English-speaking country (refer to Section 3.3)
- Evidence of prior study that was taught and assessed within a University-recognised English-speaking country (please refer to Section 3.4);
- A completed University recognised English language proficiency test, not more than 2 years old prior to the commencement of the program (please refer to Section 3.5);
- A completed English language program (please refer to Section 3.6);
- A completed Recognised Qualification taught and assessed in English (please refer to Section 3.7);
- Evidence of employment in Professional roles within a University-recognised English-speaking country (please refer to Section 3.8) or
- Evidence of Professional Registrations (please refer to Section 3.9).

3.3 Prior Study – First Language is English

An applicant whose First Language is English and whose country of birth is listed in Section 3.1 is deemed to be English-speaking for this purpose, provided:

- there is evidence of study within that country as detailed in the Table below, or
- no evidence of study outside Section 3.1 country list exists.

For applicants whose First Language is English, Table 3.3 details the acceptable qualifications to satisfy the University's English language proficiency requirement.

Successful completion means:

- For secondary qualifications – that the program of study was successfully completed and awarded.
- For other qualifications - an overall average passing grade that takes account of the grading schema relevant to that qualification.

Where full-time study is specified, equivalent study by part-time and/or combination of part-time and full-time are also acceptable.

Table 3.3 Prior Study – First Language is English - Qualifications to satisfy English language proficiency.

QUALIFICATION TYPE	REQUIREMENT TO SATISFY ELP
Senior secondary	Successful completion of a recognised senior secondary school program within one of the English-speaking countries listed in Section 3.1.

QUALIFICATION TYPE	REQUIREMENT TO SATISFY ELP
Bridging and Preparatory	Successful completion of the Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation (or equivalent) from an Australian TAFE or approved Registered Training Organisation (RTO) within an English-speaking country listed in Section 3.1.
Postsecondary [^]	Successful completion of an accepted Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) post secondary qualification. Successful completion of at least 1 year full-time of an overseas post secondary qualification within an English-speaking country listed in Section 3.1.
Tertiary	Successful completion of at least one year of full-time tertiary study at Associate degree, Bachelor degree, or higher within one of the English-speaking countries listed in Section 3.1.

[^]Post Secondary: Not acceptable for HDR programs. For Non-Award and Undergraduate programs, AQF Certificate III or higher is accepted to meet English Language Proficiency (ELP) for programs that do not list higher requirements on the Degree Finder. For Postgraduate Coursework programs where higher requirements are not listed on the Degree Finder, an AQF Diploma or higher is accepted to meet ELP.

3.4 Prior Study - First Language is not English

Applicants may meet the University's English language proficiency requirement for a program from formal academic studies wholly conducted and assessed in the English language.

For applicants whose First Language is not English, Table 3.4 details the acceptable qualifications to satisfy the University's English language proficiency requirement.

Successful completion means:

- For secondary qualifications – that the program of study was successfully completed and awarded with a satisfactory pass in English in the final year.
- For other qualifications - an overall average passing grade that takes account of the grading schema relevant to that qualification

Where full-time study is specified, equivalent study by part-time and/or combination of part-time and full-time are also acceptable.

For admission to HDR programs, only tertiary qualifications can be used to satisfy ELP requirements.

Table 3.4 Prior Study – First Language is not English - Qualifications to satisfy English language proficiency.

QUALIFICATION TYPE#	REQUIREMENT TO SATISFY ELP
Senior Secondary [^]	Within the last 5 years prior to commencement of the program: Successful completion of a recognised senior secondary school program from one of the English-speaking countries listed in 3.1.
Bridging and Preparatory [^]	Successful completion of the Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation (or equivalent) from an Australian TAFE or approved Registered Training Organisation (RTO) within an English-speaking country listed in Section 3.1.

QUALIFICATION TYPE# REQUIREMENT TO SATISFY ELP

Post secondary[^]

Within the last 5 years prior to commencement of the program:
Successful completion of at least one full-time year of post secondary study at Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma level or higher or equivalent from within one of the English-speaking countries listed in Section 3.1, where the language of instruction and assessment for the entire one year was English.

OR

Within the last 5 years prior to commencement of the program:
Successful completion of at least 2 full-time years of post secondary study at Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma level or higher in an approved Specific country (Denmark, Hong Kong, Finland, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden) and where prior schooling was undertaken in either:

- an approved English-speaking country in Section 3.1; or
 - one of these Specific countries: Denmark, Hong Kong, Finland, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden.
-

Tertiary

Within the last 5 years prior to commencement of the program:
Successful completion of at least one-year full time of tertiary study at Associate degree, Bachelor degree level, or higher within one of the English-speaking countries listed in Section 3.1, where the language of instruction and assessment for the entire year was in English.

OR

Within the last 5 years prior to commencement of the program:
Successful completion of at least 2 full-time years of tertiary study at Associate degree, Bachelor degree level or higher in an approved Specific country (Denmark, Hong Kong, Finland, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden) and where prior schooling was undertaken in either:

- an approved English speaking country in Section 3.1
 - or one of these Specific countries: Denmark, Hong Kong, Finland, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden.
-

[^]Not acceptable for HDR programs. Only tertiary qualifications can be used to satisfy ELP requirements for admission to an HDR program.

#Applicants may be requested to supply a letter from the Principal or Registrar of the institution at which the student studied, confirming successful full-time study was conducted in English as part of the University's process for assessing and verifying the applicant meets the English language requirement.

3.5 English Language Proficiency Tests

Applicants may meet the University's English language proficiency requirement for a program by completing a University-recognised English Language Proficiency test and achieving the overall and minimum section score requirements.

English language proficiency test scores must be no more than 2 years prior to commencement of the program at Griffith University.

English language proficiency tests acceptable to the University may include IELTS, TOEFL iBT, ISLPR, Cambridge C1 Advanced, Cambridge C2 Proficiency, and PTE Academic. Only in-person tests are accepted unless otherwise stated.

For programs requiring a minimum IELTS Overall Score of 6.5, Table 3.5 shows the acceptable equivalents from other University recognised English Language Proficiency tests. Not all ELP tests are accepted for some programs. Acceptable tests and programs with higher test score requirements are outlined on the Degree Finder entry under Language Requirements.

Table 3.5 Recognised English Language Proficiency tests – overall and minimum section score requirements to satisfy English language proficiency.

IELTS ACADEMIC (including One Skill Retake OSR)	TOEFL iBT	ISLPR*	CAMBRIDGE C1 ADVANCED OR C2 PROFICIENCY	PTE (ACADEMIC)
6.5 Overall with no sub-score less than 6.0	79 with no sub-score less than 19	No score less than 3+ in each skill	176 Overall with no score less than 169	58 Overall with no score less than 50

* ISLPR administered by ISLPR Language Services only.

3.6 English Language Programs

Applicants may meet the English language proficiency requirement for their program by completing a university-recognised English Language program either from Griffith University or other provider. Table 3.6 shows the acceptable programs which will satisfy English language proficiency requirements if completed within the last 1 year prior to commencement of the program:

Table 3.6 Recognised English Language programs – standard required to satisfy English language proficiency.

PROGRAM	ELP STANDARD REQUIRED
Griffith English Language Institute (GELI) Direct Entry Program (DEP)	Successful completion of DEP at the level required for entry to the intended program
Australian Education Management Group (AEMG) DEP EAP 2 [^]	Successful completion of AEMG DEP EAP 2, with a minimum overall score of 70%, with no other section below 65%
Browns English Language School EAP 5 and EAP 6 [^]	<p>For Non-Award Programs requiring IELTS 6.0 with no sub-score of less than 5.5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of BROWNS English for Academic Purposes (EAP) 5 <p>For Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programs requiring IELTS 6.5 with no sub-score of less than 6.0:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of BROWNS English for Academic Purposes (EAP) 6
ILSC Language School [^]	Successful completion of ILSC Language Schools English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Advanced 1 English language program with an overall grade of B

PROGRAM	ELP STANDARD REQUIRED
International House English Language School [^]	Successful completion of the International House English for Academic Purposes (EAP) English language program with a minimum of 70%
Navitas English [^]	<p>For Non-Award Programs requiring IELTS 6.0 with no sub-score of less than 5.5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall pass 60% in Academic English 3 (AE3) <p>For Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programs requiring IELTS 6.5 with no sub-score of less than 6.0:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall pass 60% in Academic English 4 (AE4)

[^] HDR programs to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3.7 Recognised Qualifications

Tables 3.7 and 3.8 show the acceptable recognised qualifications which will satisfy English language proficiency requirements.

Where the qualification was undertaken in an English-speaking country included in Section 3.1, no time limits apply to the acceptability of the recognised qualification to satisfy English language proficiency.

Where the qualification was undertaken in a country not included in Section 3.1, only those recognised qualifications completed in the 5 years prior to commencement of the program are acceptable to satisfy English language proficiency.

These qualifications are not acceptable for HDR programs.

Table 3.7 Recognised international qualifications – subjects and standards required to satisfy English language proficiency.

INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION	RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION SUBJECTS/COURSES	STANDARD REQUIRED TO SATISFY ELP
International Baccalaureate (IB)	English A or B	<p>Minimum grade of 3 in a Higher Level</p> <p>Minimum grade of 4 in a Standard Level</p>
GCE 'A' Levels	English, English Language, English Studies, English Literature, or Humanities subject	Minimum grade of C
GCE 'O' Levels/GCSE/IGCSE	Any English including English as a Second Language, or Humanities subject	Minimum grade of B

Table 3.8 Recognised senior secondary schooling qualifications – subjects and standards required to satisfy English language proficiency.

COUNTRY	RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION~	STANDARD REQUIRED TO SATISFY ELP
Australia	Regular Australian Year 12 programs delivered offshore (ACT SSC, NSW HSC, NT NTCET, QLD QCE, SA SACE, TAS TCE, Victorian VCE, WA WACE)	Passing grade in a subject deemed equivalent to a QCAA English subject as outlined in the University's Prerequisites and Assumed Knowledge webpage
Austria	Austrian Maturity Certificate (Reifexzeugnis / Reifeprüfungszeugnis / Matura / Maturazeugnis)	GPS of 2 in English from the last three years of Austrian High School Diploma
Canada	Canadian Provincial High School Diplomas delivered offshore	50% in a Year 12 English subject
Denmark	Upper Secondary Senior High School (Studentereksamen)	Grade of 7 in English A (both Oral & Written), or Grade of 10 in English B (both Oral & Written) in the final examination or across the final year's work of Upper Secondary School studies
Finland	Finnish Matriculation Certificate (Ylioppilastutkintodistusta)	Grade 3 in English
Germany	DAAD Language Certificate	'B2' (4 star) result in all 3 bands of the DAAD Language Certificate
	Abitur (Senior High School Diploma) - Zeugnis der Allgemeinen Hochschulreife	'4' result in English in at least one of the three years of Senior High School
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)	Minimum overall level 4 in English
Iceland	Matriculation Examination - Stúdentsspróf	Grade of 6.0 in English
India	Senior secondary qualifications from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council for Indian Certificate Examination (CISE) or National Open School	Grade of 70% in English
Malaysia	STPM: Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia	Minimum grade of C in English
	SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia)	B pass in English

COUNTRY	RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION~	STANDARD REQUIRED TO SATISFY ELP
	Malaysian Cambridge English Language 1119	Grade of C6
	Malaysian Independent Chinese Secondary Schools Unified Examination Certificate (UEC)	Grade of B5 in English
Norway	Vitnemal Senior High School Diploma	'4' result in English in at least one of the three years of Senior High School
Netherlands	Diploma of Pre-University Education (VWO) Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs	VWO with 7 or higher
	Diploma Hoger Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs (Dutch HAVO)	HAVO with 8 or higher
Sweden	Slutbetyg Avgångsbetyg / Examensbevis yrkesexamen or Avgångsbetyg / Slutbetyg från Gymnasieskola/ Högskoleförberedande examen	A Pass grade in English 5, 6, or 7
United States	United States High School Diploma delivered offshore	Minimum grade of 70% (or if no percentage is provided then letter grade of C or mark of 2) in an English subject

~ For secondary programs delivered offshore: the qualification must be accredited by an official agency in the home country AND the medium of instruction must be English.

3.8 Employment in Professional Roles

Applicants may meet the University's English language proficiency requirement for a program from recognised employment as follows:

- a) Within 2 years of admission into intended degree program: Documentary evidence of least 2 years full-time work experience in English speaking Professional roles in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom or United States of America;

OR

- b) Within 2 years of admission into intended degree program: Documentary evidence of at least 2 years full-time work experience in Professional roles for an English speaking multi-national company^.

Professional roles are defined as those appearing in ANZSCO Major Group 2 requiring ANZSCO Skill Levels 1 and 2.

^ Not acceptable for HDR programs.

3.9 Professional Registrations

Applicants may meet the University's English language proficiency requirement through their professional registration in Australia or New Zealand. These are listed in the Degree Finder for individual programs.

4.0 Definitions

For the purposes of this Schedule and related policy documents, the following definitions apply:

ANZSCO: Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations. ANZSCO is primarily a statistical classification designed to aggregate and organise data collected about jobs or individuals. The classification definitions are based on the skill level and specialisation usually necessary to perform the tasks of the specific occupation, or of most occupations in the group.

Cambridge C1 Advanced / C2 Proficiency: English language proficiency tests for non-native English language speakers.

GCE: General Certificate of Education. GCE is a subject-specific family of academic qualifications used by UK awarding bodies. GCE A Levels are awarded worldwide.

GCSE: General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSE is a UK-based academic qualification that students may typically take prior to GCE A Levels. GCSEs are awarded worldwide.

IELTS: International English Language Testing System. IELTS is an international standardised test of English language proficiency for non-native English language speakers.

ISLPR: International Second Language Proficiency Ratings. ISLPR assesses language proficiency through one-on-one interviews and performance-based tasks.

Post secondary: a generic term for study completed post secondary education and generally refers to AQF Certificate III or above as these are qualifications accepted for admission depending on the program and level of study. For applicants with English as their first language applying for non-award and most undergraduate programs AQF Certificate III or above may be accepted to meet ELP. For all applicants applying for postgraduate coursework programs an AQF Diploma or higher may be accepted to meet ELP. For applicants with overseas post secondary qualifications acceptable to meet ELP may vary depending on country and equivalency. For more details contact the relevant admission area.

PTE (Academic): The Academic version of the Pearson Test of English. PTE (Academic) is a computer-based test which assesses the English language skills of non-native speakers.

TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language. TOEFL is an international standardised test of English language proficiency for non-native English language speakers.

TOEFL iBT: The internet-based test of TOEFL.

5.0 Information

Title	Admission Schedule: English Language Proficiency
Document number	2024/0000024
Purpose	Supports the Admissions Procedure and sets out how applicants to the University can demonstrate they meet the English language proficiency requirement of their relevant coursework program.
Audience	Students

Category	Academic
Subcategory	Student Services
Approval date	26 March 2024
Effective date	Trimester 1 2024
Review date	2028
Policy advisors	Senior Manager, Domestic Admissions
Approving authority	Registrar

6.0 Related Policy Documents and Supporting Documents

Legislation	Higher Education Support Act 2003 Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 Education Services for Overseas Student Act 2000 (ESOS)
Policy	Admission Policy Higher Degree by Research Policy
Procedure	Admission Procedure