



UCL Academic Manual

Chapter 1: Admissions, Registration and Student Conduct

Annex 1.1.6

# English Language Proficiency Requirements

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## Policy

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1. All students seeking admission to UCL (including EU and Overseas), who are not a national of a United Kingdom Home Office “majority English speaking” country, are required to provide recent evidence that their command of spoken and written English is adequate for the programme of study for which they have applied. This is a UCL requirement. UCL specifies the need for its undergraduate and graduate students to have adequate English in order to ensure that their academic progress is not hindered by language difficulties and that students are able to integrate socially whilst studying at UCL and living in this country.

2. Evidence of English language proficiency may take the form of one of the following:

- National of a UK Home Office “majority English speaking” country
- Completed a UK degree equivalent qualification from a country which the Home Office lists as “majority English speaking” no more than the summer two years prior to the proposed date of enrolment
- Completed a minimum of twelve months education in a country that UCL considers to be “majority English speaking”, no more than the summer two years prior to the proposed date of enrolment
- Completed a minimum of eighteen months of work experience in a country that UCL considers to be “majority English speaking”, no more than two years prior to the proposed date of enrolment
- Completed a school leaving qualification containing English, which UCL considers to meet the CEFR B2 level in all four skills, no more than the summer two years prior to the proposed date of enrolment

- Obtained one of the English language tests accepted by UCL, no more than two years prior to the proposed date of enrolment. A number of qualifications and tests are recognised, UCL's preferred English language qualification being the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The qualification or test result must have been awarded at the appropriate UCL level (standard, good or advanced).

3. UCL reserves the right, in individual circumstances, to specify an additional language requirement for an applicant.

4. UCL's English language proficiency policy has been approved by the relevant committees of UCL's Academic Committee. This policy places responsibility on faculty and departmental admissions tutors in deciding, to at least UCL's minimum standard level requirement, the level of English language proficiency that their students require. All students are required to meet UCL's proficiency requirements to the level deemed suitable for the programme of study to which they have applied.

### **Qualifications Recognised by UCL for the Purpose of Satisfying the English Language Proficiency Requirement**

All tests or qualifications must have been taken no more than two years prior to the proposed date of enrolment.

#### **Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English**

Standard level: Overall score of 176 with 169 in all subtests.

Good level: Overall score of 185 with 176 in all subtests.

Advanced level: Overall score of 191 with 176 in all subtests.

#### **Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English**

Standard level: Overall score of 176 with 169 in all subtests.

Good level: Overall score of 185 with 176 in all subtests.

Advanced level: Overall score of 191 with 176 in all subtests.

#### **Cambridge English Language 1119**

Standard level: Pass at grade 6.

Good level: Pass at grade 6.

Advanced level: Pass at grade 4.

#### **Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) GCE Ordinary Level in English Language**

Standard level: Pass at grade C.

Good level: Pass at grade C.

Advanced level: Pass at grade B.

#### **City & Guilds**

Standard level: Pass at Mastery level when achieved with a pass at Mastery level in the Pitman International Spoken (ISESOL) test.

Good level: Pass at Mastery level when achieved with a pass at Mastery level in the Pitman International Spoken (ISESOL) test.

Advanced level: Not acceptable.

**GCSE English Language** Standard level: Pass at grade C. Good level: Pass at grade C.  
Advanced level: Pass at grade B.

**Hong Kong Certificate of Education English Language (Standards-Referenced Reporting Scheme)**

Standard level: Pass at grade 3.

Good level: Pass at grade 3.

Advanced level: Pass at grade 4.

**International Baccalaureate (IB)**

Standard level: For native or near-native speakers: IB Language A at either higher or standard level - grade 4; IB Language A at either higher or standard level - grade 4.

For non-native speakers: IB Language B at higher level - grade 4; IB Language B at standard level - grade 6.

Good level: Same as standard level

Advanced level: For native or near-native speakers: IB Language A1 at either higher or standard level - grade 5; IB Language A2 at either higher or standard level - grade 5.

For non-native speakers: IB Language B at higher level - grade 5; IB Language B at standard level - grade 7.

**International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic** Standard level:

Overall grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each of the subtests. Good level: Overall grade of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in each of the subtests. Advanced level: Overall grade of 7.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in each of the subtests

**International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Only acceptable where all four components are included.**

The following syllabuses are acceptable:

Cambridge 500, 0510, 05110522 (Level 2 only), 0524, 0526

Edexcel English as a Second Language 4ESO/01, English Language A

AQA Certificate 9705 (Level 2 only)

Standard level: Pass at grade C.

Good level: Pass at grade C.

Advanced level: Pass at grade B.

**Malaysian Certificate of Education English Language Communicational (122)** Standard level: Pass at grade 6.

Good level: Pass at grade 6.

Advanced level: Pass at grade 4.

**Pearson Test of English**

UCL Standard level: 62 overall, with a minimum of 59 in each communicative skills

component

UCL Good level: 69 overall, with a minimum of 62 in each communicative skills component

UCL Advanced level: 75 overall, with a minimum of 62 in each communicative skills component

### **Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) iBT (acceptable for January 2016 entry onwards)**

Standard level: Overall score of 92 with 24/30 in reading and writing and 20/30 in speaking and listening.

Good level: Overall score of 100 with 24/30 in reading and writing and 20/30 in speaking and listening.

Advanced level: Overall score of 109 with 24/30 in reading and writing and 20/30 in speaking and listening

### **UCL Language Centre: Pre-Sessional English Language Courses**

Standard level: Mark of 65%, with at least 60% in each of the subtests.

Good level: Mark of 70%, with at least 65% in each of the subtests.

Advanced level: Mark of 75%, with at least 70% in each of the subtests.

### **UCL Centre for Languages and International Education - Diploma in English for Academic Purposes with Academic Research Skills**

Standard level: Overall mark of 65% with at least 60% in each of the four subtests. Good

level: Overall mark of 70% with at least 65% in each of the four subtests. Advanced level:

Overall mark of 75% with at least 70% in each of the four subtests.

### **School Leaving/Matriculation Certificates**

Austria Matura/Reifepfung, 2 (gut) in English when both written and oral examinations have been taken.

Belgium Diploma van Secundair or the Certificat d'Enseignement Secondaire Superieur, the equivalent of 8/80%/grote onderscheiding/avec grande distinction in English.

Brunei Brunei-Cambridge GCE O Level English at grade C in English

Denmark All levels: Studentereksamen, 10 in English.

European Baccalaureate A8 in English as either an Obligatory Subject (Language I or II) or as a Full Option (Language III or IV).

Finland Ylioppilastutkinto/Studentexamen matriculation examination, 5 (magna cum laude approbatur) in English.

France Baccalaureat General or OIB, 13 (assez bien) in English, where the co-efficient applied to the subject is greater than 1.

Germany Abitur, 12 (gut) in English when taken as an achievement/main/intensive course.

Iceland Studentsprof matriculation examination, 8 in English when taken as a compulsory modern language.

Luxembourg Examen de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires, 45 (bien) in English.

The Netherlands Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs (VWO) diploma, 7 (ruim voldoende) in English.

Norway Vitnemal - videregaende opplæring, 5 in English.

Sweden Avgångsbetyg, VG (val godkant) in English.

Switzerland Maturitatzzeugnis/Certificat de Maturite/Attestato de Maturita federal maturity certificate or the federally-recognised cantonal maturity certificate, 5 (gut/bien/bene) in English.