



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 international applicants. All international applicants 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 note that domestic applicants are not included.

Please contact pathwayscollege@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	4
4. Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)	5
5. Prior Study in English	7
6. Waivers	7
7. Country Specific Qualifications	7

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

New Zealand and Australian citizens and permanent residents are not included as they are domestic students and therefore do not fall under the international student language requirement.

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 test sitting or on one certificate.

	CAFS (accelerated)	CAFS (standard)
IELTS (Academic)	IELTS score of 5.5 (with at least 5.5 in the Writing band and no band less than a 5.0)	IELTS score of 5.5 (with at least 5.0 in the Writing band)
PBT TOEFL	Overall score of 44 with writing score of 14	Overall score of 44 with writing score of 14
iBT TOEFL (internet based)	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 18	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 14
Pearson (PTE)	PTE Academic overall score of 42 and no band score lower than 38	PTE Academic overall score of 42 and no band score lower than 36
Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)	B grade or better with a B in Writing at level 6	B grade or better at level 6
NZCEL	Level 3 Applied	Level 3 Applied
Trinity ISE	ISE II with no less than merit in any band	ISE II with no less than pass in any band

Language Cert - International ESOL	B1 Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with High Pass and no less than Pass in each skill	B2 Communicator IESOL (LRWS) with Pass and no less than Pass in each skill
Cambridge English	B1 & B2: overall score of 162 and no bands below 154	B1 & B2: overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
MELAB	75	75
Accredited Pathways Assessment (APA)¹ English NZ accredited schools	English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment Level 1	English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment Level 1

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

3. International Diplomas

IELTS (Academic)	IELTS score of 5.5 (no band less than a 5.0)
PBT TOEFL	Overall score of 44 with writing score of 14
iBT TOEFL (internet based)	Overall score of 46 with a writing score of 18
Pearson (PTE)	PTE Academic overall score of 42 and no band score lower than 38
Waikato Certificate of Attainment in English Language (CAEL)	B grade or better with a B in Writing at level 6
NZCEL	Level 3 Applied
Trinity ISE	ISE II with no less than merit in any band
Language Cert - International ESOL	B1 Achiever IESOL (LRWS) with High Pass and no less than Pass in each skill
Cambridge English	B1 & B2: overall score of 162 and no bands below 154
MELAB	75
Accredited Pathways Assessment (APA)² English NZ accredited schools	English New Zealand Accredited Pathway Assessment Level 1

¹ Subject to approval by Academic Board

² Subject to approval by Academic Board

4. 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	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	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

CAEL level 6	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	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
CAEL level 7	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	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
CAEL level 8	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	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

5. Prior Study in English

- 5.1. For admission into Foundation Studies Programmes, and International Diplomas through Foundation Studies Programmes, please contact Waikato Pathways College to discuss: pathwayscollege@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
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
NZCEL	Level 3 Applied	Level 3 Applied	Level 3 Applied

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

6. Waivers

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

7. Country Specific Qualifications

See pathways.waikato.ac.nz/admissions/entry-requirements for satisfactory evidence of proficiency in English for a select list of countries.