

English language requirements for study visas

The English language requirements for study visa application purposes are set out below including for:

- short term English language preparatory courses to be undertaken prior to commencing the main course of study, and
- persons seeking to complete second level education courses¹.

Please note you must also meet the English language standard for your chosen course as set down by the college concerned. It may be higher than the scores listed below which apply for immigration purposes.

1. Acceptable English language certificates and minimum scores required - courses other than short term preparatory English language courses

Please note that the certificate must have been issued within 2 years of the expected commencement date of your course. Please also note that acceptable certifications are subject to review.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic

- Minimum score of: 5.0

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)²

- Minimum score of: 173 (Computer-based)
- 61 (Internet-based)

¹ Second level education courses may only be undertaken in a private, fee-paying school or college.

² TOEFL test results may be accepted for visa applications for the purpose of attending Irish-accredited degree courses, as certified by HETAC, provided that the university vouches for the fact that they have satisfied themselves that the student has the capacity to undertake the course. Written confirmation of this should be submitted by the university in question in support of the visa application.

- 500 (Paper-based)

English Test for Academic and Professional Purposes (ETAPP)

- Minimum grade of: B2

Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic

- Minimum score of: 30

Cambridge English Language Assessments (CELA) (*formerly Cambridge ESOL*)

Minimum of a Pass in the following examinations:

- First Certificate in English (FCE)
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)
- Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)
- Business English Certificate (BEC) (Higher or Vantage)

2. Short term preparatory English language courses – general requirements

If you have been accepted on a specific course of study, but you need or are required to complete, a preparatory course of English prior to commencing your main course, the following requirements apply:

- The preparatory English language course must be short term, and not exceed a maximum duration of 6 months.
- You must submit a detailed study plan, including the duration and dates of your preliminary English course, and details and dates of your main course of study.
- Fees for both the English preparatory course **AND** the first year of your main course must be paid in full to the college. Evidence of this must accompany your application

3. Short term preparatory English language courses / second level education courses – acceptable English language certificates and required minimum scores

The acceptable English language certificates and minimum scores below apply to persons seeking to complete short term preparatory course and persons seeking to attend second level courses.

Please note that the certificate must have been issued within 2 years of the expected commencement date of your course.

Please also note that acceptable certifications are subject to review.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic

- Minimum score of: 4.0

English Test for Academic and Professional Purposes (ETAPP)

- Minimum grade of: B1

Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic

- Minimum score of: 30

Cambridge English Language Assessments (CELA)(*formerly Cambridge ESOL*)

Minimum of a Pass in Preliminary English Test (PET)