

## English language entry requirements policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students admitted to the University of Bristol are able to cope with and succeed in their studies. Admitting students with insufficient knowledge of the English language not only causes difficulties for the individuals concerned but also problems for the University.

### 1. General requirement

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to meet the language requirements as outlined in the language Profile relevant for their intended course of study. The required level of English language will be listed on the online course finder.

### 2. Responsibility for implementation

- Faculty Admissions and Recruitment Officers and Admissions Tutors (for admission to undergraduate degrees) or Faculty/School Offices (for admission to postgraduate degrees) are responsible for the initial application of the policy, i.e. setting the appropriate Profile level per course/programme.
- If an Admissions Tutor/Faculty Office wishes to waive the standard requirement for an individual applicant or accept an unrecognised qualification, then a written case will need to be submitted to the relevant Faculty Admissions and Recruitment Officer (FARO) or Graduate Education Director (GED) (or equivalent) for approval. This should be accompanied by evidence and a clear rationale to detail how the University can be satisfied that the applicant has an appropriate level of English. This must be accompanied by a School commitment to fund additional support if the student subsequently struggles.
- All applicants are required to have a minimum of CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) B2 in all four language skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking) which can also be phrased as IELTS Academic 5.5 (or equivalent) in all bands. This minimum requirement applies regardless of decisions made relating to the individual's personal circumstances. If this is not evidenced by a Secure English Language Test (SELT) or authorised exemption, alternative means of establishing the level must be recorded in the application file.
- Admissions Tutors/Faculty/School Offices should ensure an applicant whose first language is not English satisfies the relevant profile requirements for the chosen programme. This can be part of a conditional offer if not already achieved. Applicants can meet the profile requirements with any test or qualification listed within the profile.

- It is strongly recommended that students with less than IELTS 6.5 in Writing (or equivalent) should be advised to take an in-session EAP (English for Academic Purposes) unit in their first year or attend a pre-session programme.

### **3. Approved tests of English language**

If an English language test is required, it must have been obtained within two years of the start of the programme. Please see individual programme entries on the online course finder for precise details of standards required.

### **4. Evidence**

If an offer specifies that an English language qualification is required, the applicant must provide evidence that the appropriate level has been met (as specified in the relevant English language profile) before their place can be confirmed. Evidence must be uploaded to the applicant portal in line with the results deadline specified.

### **5. Applicants who do not yet reach the standard of achievement specified in their offer**

If an English language qualification was required as part of the offer, but the standard has not yet been met, the applicant may wish to consider a pre-session course offered by the University's Centre for Academic Language and Development. For more information, please visit <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/academic-language/study/pre-sessional/>.

Attendance on a pre-session course does not automatically guarantee progression to a degree course or programme. Entry requirements for the pre-session course are listed on each English language profile.

### **6. Procedure for approval of other English language tests**

- Guidance and advice need to be sought from the Pathways and Qualifications team to establish whether the specified test should be included in standard exemptions.
- Research will be carried out to ensure that the qualification satisfactorily satisfies the University's English language requirements, and equivalency to other English language tests established.
- If it is agreed that the qualification can be used to satisfy the University's English language requirements, then the qualification will be discussed with the International Office before a summary and recommendation is given to the Director of Admissions for approval.
- If the qualification is approved, then it may be added to the English language profiles.
- If Admissions, the Centre for Academic Language and Development or the International Office believes that acceptance of a qualification should be rescinded, this should be

discussed with other relevant parties before being taken to the Director of Admissions for approval. Following approval, the qualification will be removed from the list and relevant staff members.

## **7. Nationality and country specific language exemptions**

- Where an applicant is a national of an English-speaking country as defined by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), the University still has an obligation to ensure that the applicant's level of English is sufficient for them to succeed on their course. In these cases, the University will detail on the website how it considers applicants who are nationals of, or resident in, an English-speaking country as defined by the University.