

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
UNDERGRADUATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS WHO REQUIRE A STUDENT VISA
(EXCLUDING NATIONALS OF MAJORITY ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES)

▪ **Overview of English language requirements:**

The English language requirements in this table apply to all students who require a Student visa to study in the UK, excluding nationals of majority English speaking countries (as defined by the UK Home Office list). The table below shows the English language qualifications and tests that are acceptable for entry to the University of Essex and the levels required. The levels are the minimum entry requirements for admission to the University

▪ **Nationals of majority English speaking countries:**

If you are a National of a majority English speaking country (as defined by the UK Home Office list) please see <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/documents/admissions/englisheu.pdf>

▪ **English qualifications or tests taken over five years ago:**

The conditions of your offer may include an English language requirement if your previous English language qualification was taken more than five years before the start of the course you are applying for at Essex. If you are unsure why your offer specifies an additional English language test, please contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office and we will be happy to clarify this for you.

▪ **Test dates/shelf life**

For all of the tests listed in this table except Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic and TOEFL, we can accept a test taken up to 5 years before the start of the course you are applying for at Essex.

PTE Academic and TOEFL tests must be verifiable online by the University at the point that any offer is made. Verification is only available online within 3 years of the date of the test for PTE Academic and within 2 years of the date of the test for TOEFL.

The conditions of your offer may include an English language requirement if your previous English language qualification was outside of the period specified above for the test you have taken. If you are unsure why your offer specifies an additional English language test, please email ugquery@essex.ac.uk and we will be happy to clarify this for you.

▪ **Combining scores from two tests**

We can accept a combination of two tests of the same type (e.g., two IELTS tests) providing both the overall and all component scores are met across the two tests, and both were taken within the accepted shelf life for that test.

▪ **Approved test centres and dates:**

All of the tests specified below are acceptable and, for study at degree-level, these tests can be taken at any test centre, not just approved UKVI test centres. For courses below degree-level (currently Certificate of Higher Education in East 15 Acting School), please see additional requirements specified in the table below relating to approved test centres and the date your test was taken, in line with changes to Home Office requirements published in April 2015. [For more details of Home Office requirements, please see the information here.](#)

▪ **Courses with different English language requirements than those listed in this table:**

- **BA Multimedia Journalism** – IELTS 7.0 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component
- **Nursing, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy** - More information can be found in our English language requirements for applicants to pre-registration courses: <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/documents/admissions/hscleltsAndEquivalents.pdf>

▪ **English qualifications or tests not listed in the table:**

If you are taking an English language qualification that is not specified below, please email ugquery@essex.ac.uk for advice on whether it is acceptable for entry.

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English Language test/qualification	Minimum Level required See first page for information about your test date and the shelf life of your test			
	Degree-level courses (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)			Below degree-level courses
	First Year Entry	Second and Final Year Direct Entry	Essex Pathways degrees including foundation year (EU applicants only)	Certificate of Higher Education in East 15 Acting School
IELTS (Academic) IELTS Online (Academic) IELTS (Academic) One Skill Retake IELTS Indicator	6.0 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component	6.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component	5.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component	IELTS (Academic only) 5.0 overall with a minimum of 4.0 in each component IELTS tests must be a UKVI IELTS taken at an approved IELTS test centre on the UKVI's list, available here , to be accepted for entry to below degree-level courses. Test must be taken within two years of the start of your course.
TOEFL (iBT) TOEFL iBT Online – Special Home Edition TOEFL – My Best Scores	76 overall, with a minimum of 18 in reading, 17 in listening, 20 in speaking and 17 in writing	88 overall, with a minimum of 18 in reading, 17 in listening, 20 in speaking and 17 in writing	72 overall, with a minimum of 18 in reading, 17 in listening, 20 in speaking and 17 in writing	Not acceptable

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English Language test/qualification	Minimum Level required See first page for information about your test date and the shelf life of your test			
	Degree-level courses (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)			Below degree-level courses
	First Year Entry	Second and Final Year Direct Entry	Essex Pathways degrees including foundation year (EU applicants only)	Certificate of Higher Education in East 15 Acting School
Pearson Test of English Academic We do not accept PTE online	60 overall, with a minimum of 59 in each component	62 overall, with a minimum of 59 in each component	59 overall, with a minimum of 59 in each component	Not acceptable
<u>Cambridge English Qualifications</u> C1 Advanced (Certificate in Advanced English) Or C2 Proficiency (Certificate of Proficiency in English)	A score of 169 overall on the Cambridge English Scale, with a minimum of 162 in each component	A score of 176 overall on the Cambridge English Scale, with a minimum of 162 in each component	A score of 162 overall on the Cambridge English Scale, with a minimum of 162 in each component	Not acceptable

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	Degree-level courses (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)			Below degree-level courses
	First Year Entry	Second and Final Year Direct Entry	Essex Pathways degrees including foundation year (EU applicants only)	Certificate of Higher Education in East 15 Acting School
Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE) Level III and IV	Pass (overall and in each component)	Pass (overall and in each component)	Pass (overall and in each component)	Pass (overall and in each component) Tests must be taken at an approved test centre on the UKVI's list , to be accepted for below degree-level courses. Test must be taken within two years of the start of your course.
Michigan English Test – Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE)	Successful completion of the ECPE Certificate of Proficiency with Pass overall to include 750 in each component.	Successful completion of the ECPE Certificate of Proficiency with Pass overall to include 795 in each component	Successful completion of the ECPE Certificate of Proficiency with Pass overall to include 700 in each component.	Not acceptable

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	Degree-level courses (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)			Below degree-level courses
	First Year Entry	Second and Final Year Direct Entry	Essex Pathways degrees including foundation year (EU applicants only)	Certificate of Higher Education in East 15 Acting School
Oxford International Digital Institute Online Pre-session English Course (OPSE) and Online English Language Level Test (ELLT) / ELLT Global	Overall B2+ with B2 in each component Or 6 overall with 5 in each component	Overall C1 with B2 in each component Or 7 overall with 5 in each component	Overall B2 with B2 in each component Or 5 overall with 5 in each component	Not acceptable
Oxford Test of English – Certificate of Proficiency	126 overall including a minimum of 111 in each component	140 overall including a minimum of 111 in each component	111 overall including a minimum of 111 in each component	Not acceptable
KTE (Kaplan Test of English)	426 with no less than 396 in any component	459 with no less than 396 in any component	396 with no less than 396 in any component	Not acceptable
British Academic Centre International English Test (BACIET)	6.0 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component	6.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component	5.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component	Not acceptable
LanguageCert Academic SELT	B2 overall with a minimum of 67 in each component	B2 overall with a minimum of 72 in each component	B2 overall with a minimum of 63 in each component	B1 overall with a minimum of 55 in each component Tests must be taken at an approved test

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				centre on the UKVI's list , to be accepted for below degree-level courses. Test must be taken within two years of the start of your course.
English Language test/qualification	Minimum Level required See first page for information about your test date and the shelf life of your test			
	Degree-level courses (excluding courses with non-standard requirements, listed on page 1)			Below degree-level courses
	First Year Entry	Second and Final Year Direct Entry	Essex Pathways degrees including foundation year (EU applicants only)	Certificate of Higher Education in East 15 Acting School
Skills for English: SELT	B2 Pass with Merit	B2 Pass with Merit	B2 Pass	B1 Pass (Test must be taken within two years of the start of your course.)
International Baccalaureate	Standard Level or Higher Level grade 4 in any of the below modules: English A: Language and Literature English A: Literature English B English Literature and Performance	Standard Level or Higher Level grade 4 in any of the below modules: English A: Language and Literature English A: Literature English B English Literature and Performance	Standard Level or Higher Level grade 4 in any of the below modules: English A: Language and Literature English A: Literature English B English Literature and Performance	Not acceptable

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GCSE/ IGCSE/Cambridge O-Level English (as a first or second language)	Grade C or 4	Grade C or 4	Grade C or 4	Not acceptable
Pre-sessional English course at the University of Essex	<p>If you do not meet the IELTS requirements then you may be able to take a pre-sessional English pathway that enables you to meet our English language requirements without retaking IELTS. These courses are delivered by the University of Essex International College. Please see our website for further information: https://www.essex.ac.uk/international/pre-sessional. Our pre-sessional English courses are normally only valid for entry to a main course which starts immediately after the pre-sessional course. If you take a pre-sessional English course but then are not able to start your main course in October, the pre-sessional course will not normally remain valid. If we can offer you a later start date for your main course, we may ask you for an alternative proof of your English language proficiency.</p>			

Last updated 15 August 2024