Policy Document Administrator	Registrar registrar@aut.edu.au (02) 9262 7890
Policy Document Approver	Academic Board
Responsible Body/Person	Academic Board
Next Review date	20 October 2026
Superseded documents	Admission Policy – English Language Proficiency
Related documents	Coursework Course Enrolment Policy
Related HE Standards	1.1
Related National Code Standards	N/A
Glossary	Definitions for any words in **Bold** in this document can be found in the Policy Glossary. The first instance of each defined term has been outlined in bold.

1. PURPOSE

To outline the minimum levels of **English language proficiency** required in order to enter an **AUT course** taken in English, and how English language proficiency is tested.

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions for any words in Bold in this document can be found in the Policy Glossary. The first instance of each defined term has been outlined in bold.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all applicants seeking admission to AUT **courses** to be delivered in English, both **AQF** and non-AQF courses. It also applies to students undertaking units via **single unit study** mode.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The **Australian University of Theology** is committed to exercising a duty of care towards applicants by setting requirements for admission to courses at levels that maximise the likelihood of enrolled students completing their course successfully. One such requirement is English language proficiency.

5. POLICY APPLICATION

5.1   The AUT seeks to ensure that all students enrolled in an AUT course undertaken in English have the English language proficiency required in order to likely be successful in their course of study. Prior to admission into any course delivered in English, applicants are required to prove their level of English language capacity in order to be admitted to their chosen course. This can be done in one of the following ways:

5.1.1 The applicant holds an **Assessable Qualification** completed in one of the **Approved Countries**, completed within the last ten (10) years; OR

5.1.2 The applicant has been resident in Australia for ten (10) or more years, with English being the language primarily spoken both at home and work; OR

5.1.3 The applicant provides proof of English language proficiency. Normal proof of English language proficiency is an **IELTS** Test – Academic Version. A single test result must be submitted, which is no more than two (2) years old prior to the commencement of the first enrolment in the proposed course. Minimum levels of English language proficiency are as follows:

- For non-AQF courses, the IELTS requirement is an overall is an overall score of at least 6.0, with no subtest score below 5.5.

- For undergraduate courses unless otherwise specified, the IELTS requirement is an overall score of at least 6.5, with no subtest score below 6.0.

- For postgraduate coursework courses, the IELTS requirement is an overall score of at least 7.0, with reading and writing subtests of at least 7.0, and with listening and speaking subtests of at least 6.5.

- For postgraduate research degrees, the IELTS requirement is an overall score of at least 7.5, with reading and writing subtests of at least 7.5, with listening subtest of at least 7.0, and with speaking subtest of at least 6.5.

5.2 When an applicant for admission shows English language proficiency through the provisions of sections 5.1.1 or 5.1.2, but the college to which they are applying is concerned about their level of proficiency, the college may exercise its duty of care towards the applicant by requesting the applicant to demonstrate their level of English language proficiency under section 5.1.3 in order to assess the likelihood of the applicant coping satisfactorily with study in the course. If an applicant provides proof of English language proficiency under section 5.1.3 but the college still has concerns about the applicant's level of English, the college may exercise its duty of care towards the applicant in requiring the applicant to undergo further testing by way of an essay, a test, or an interview. If the applicant declines a request to demonstrate their level of English language proficiency after meeting the measures in 5.1.1, 5.1.2 or 5.1.3, the college shall determine if the applicant may enter the proposed course of study based on the information available.

5.3 If the proof of English language proficiency for admission provided under section 5.1.3 is other than the results of a recent IELTS test, the **AUT Registrar** has the authority to determine the acceptability of the alternative proof, both in content and level.

5.4 The AUT Registrar, on the written request of an Affiliated College, has the right to waive or vary the requirement for proof of English language proficiency as part of the admission process. On such occasions the Registrar will advise the relevant college in writing and record the action on the relevant student's record.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 – item 1.1.1

National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018

English Language Proficiency requirements, Universities Admissions Centre

8. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
1	Academic Board	19 October 2018	1 January 2019	New policy written to supersede old policy
1a		28 October 2019		Added Appendix 1 – list of countries from UAC website as at 28 October 2019
1b	Academic Board	22 October 2021		Scheduled policy review; no changes
2	Academic Board	22 October 2023		Scheduled policy review, minor updates, introduction of English Language Proficiency standard requirements for ACT's non-AQF courses, update scope to include students undertaking individual units not just whole courses.
3	Board of Directors	11 November 2024		Registrar updated policy based on Board of Directors decision to accredit Diploma of Christian Foundations with IELTS requirements different to other undergraduate courses
4	Vice-Chancellor	February 2025	February 2025	Update to new document template; minor editorial updates to implement University status.

Any hard copy of this electronic document may not be current as the University regularly reviews its policies. The latest version can be found online at https://www.aut.edu.au/documents

Appendix 1 – list of Approved Countries

The Policy aligns countries to those listed on the English Language Proficiency Requirements of the Universities Admissions Centre. The table below is provided for ease of access to the list of Approved Countries, and was last confirmed on 11 October 2021, from the Universities Admissions Centre website. (https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/admission-criteria/university-english-language-proficiency).

American Samoa

Australia

Botswana

Canada

Fiji

Ghana

Guyana

Ireland

Jamaica

Kenya

Lesotho

Liberia

New Zealand

Nigeria

Papua New Guinea

Singapore

Solomon Islands

South Africa

Tonga

Trinidad and Tobago

United Kingdom

United States of America

Zambia

Zimbabwe