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Policy Document Approver	Academic Board
Responsible Body/Person	Academic Board
Next Review date	March 2029
Superseded documents	Admission Policy – English Language Proficiency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 <b>Bold</b> in this document can be found in the <a href="#">Policy Glossary</a> . 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 either at home or at work (or both); 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 In exceptional circumstances, the AUT Registrar, on the written request of an Affiliated College, has the right to waive or vary the requirements for proof of English language proficiency as part of the admission process. The AUT Registrar is guided in the application of this clause by the overarching principle that evidence

must be provided to demonstrate that the applicant has proficiency in English needed to participate in their intended study.

5.4.1 In order to ensure consistent and transparent decision-making, when clause 5.4 is enacted and an exception is given by the AUT Registrar to the usual requirement to demonstrate English language proficiency in the methods outlined in this policy, the Registrar will advise the relevant college in writing, record the action on the relevant student’s record, and will document the reasons for the decision in a central register of exemptions available for review by relevant governance bodies on request.

## 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.
5	Academic Board	March 2026	March 2026	Policy review, implement criteria for which the Registrar may waive English language requirements to ensure consistent and transparent decision-making

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