**Background**

As a sponsor of Tier 4 student visas, the University is responsible for assessing all applicants’ English ability to the required standard and for obtaining verification of this in the form of a recognised test or qualification.

All staff processing applications and making offers must assess applicants’ proficiency in English language to the required level using one of the approved qualifications in the Admissions Guidelines unless they qualify under the Majority English Speaking Country category. A copy of the qualification must be kept on the student’s file and is required for audit purposes.

In line with the UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) guidance, where an applicant is undertaking a Secure English Language Test (SELT) such as a UKVI approved IELTS, or Trinity College test, the applicant should provide minimum scores overall and in each band of the test. The Admissions Team will verify all SELT results.

In accordance with the UKVI guidance the minimum component score is IELTS 5.5, or the equivalent, for undergraduate and postgraduate study (Common European Framework CEFR B2). This is in addition to the overall score required by the University for Academic purposes.

The Admissions Guidelines also include a range of other English language qualifications and English medium backgrounds which are accepted as meeting both the University’s requirements and the B2 requirement of the Home Office.

a. English medium education – to date students from certain institutions and education systems in Anglophone Africa and in South Asia have been accepted in certain cases where their previous education has been taught and assessed in English, and they have achieved a certain level of English language ability in their high school qualification. The Home Office allows sponsors to assess students’ English level using their own methods such as this, however in terms of both academic quality and compliance it is important that these assessments are kept under review. These examples are restricted to where the language ability is consistently of a good standard and there is no pattern of weak performance.

b. Other English language qualifications – in the same manner where a student has achieved a certain level of English language ability in their high school qualification, and where the language ability is consistently of a good standard and there is no pattern of weak performance, the qualification will be accepted at an appropriate level, as detailed below.

c. Students who have studied at least the first two years at Xi’an Jiaotong Liverpool University (XJTLU) in the medium of English.

d. Students from our partner institution, Liverpool International College or other Kaplan International Colleges who have successfully completed the College English Language pre-sessional programme.

e. Students who have successfully completed the appropriate English for Academic Purposes programme at the University of Liverpool’s English Language Centre.

f. All other students (unless they are a national of or have studied to the equivalent of UK Bachelor degree level in one of the Home Office-defined “Majority English Speaking Countries” listed attached) must obtain one of the other qualifications listed with the relevant score.

No other qualifications, interviews or any other form of English language assessment may be used by University members of staff as the basis for offers of admission except in exceptional circumstances where the student is a ‘gifted’ student. Such cases will be considered by the Admissions Team and must be approved by the Head of Academic Department and the Head of Admissions on a case by case basis provided there is sufficient evidence to substantiate their skill level.
Approved Tests and Qualifications

Entry to Pre-sessional Courses and Courses below NQF Level 6

Students applying for a course below Bachelors / NQF level 6 or a pre-sessional English language course must take a UKVI approved IELTS or Trinity College test and obtain the relevant score. In addition to the overall score required by the University, students must obtain minimum scores set by the Home Office in each element of the test in order to meet its B1 CEFR requirement for study at this level.

Entry to Courses at NQF Level 6 and Above

The University accepts the tests, qualifications and exemptions listed below for students who are intending to study on a course at Bachelors level (NQF 6) and above.

Recognised English Language Tests:

- IELTS, Pearson Academic, TOEFL IBT, Trinity College
- IGCSE as a First or Second Language, GCSE, O Level (UK examining boards)
- A level English (UK examining boards)
- International Baccalaureate (English A1, A2 & B)
- European Baccalaureate (English first or second language)

International Academic Qualifications in English Language (see individual country pages for gradings required). We reserve the right to require students taking these tests to undertake an internal test of speaking and listening skills.

- Botswana Cambridge Overseas School Certificate
- Brunei Cambridge O Level
- Cameroon GCSE O Level (British system)
- Caribbean Examination General Council Proficiency
- Hong Kong – HKCEE, A Level Use of English, HKDSE English language
- Indian SSSC 12th Standard English Language
- Kenya KCSE (EAACE) English Language
- Malaysian SPM 1119 English Language
- Malawi School Certificate of Education
- Singapore Cambridge A Level
- South African National Senior Certificate
- Tanzania – ASCE English
- Uganda Certificate of Education – English language
- West Africa – WAEC WASSCE English language
- Zambia – Zambia School Certificate
- Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education

Other English Qualifications/Courses that meet the University’s English Language requirements:

- NCUK International Foundation Year/Graduate Diploma EAP
- Kaplan International Colleges Foundation Certificate or Graduate Diploma EAP
- Successful completion of the first two years of the degree programme at XJTLU
- HELP University College, Malaysia SPM 1119 English grade C or IELTS 6.5 with no band lower than 5.5
• INTI University College, Malaysia SPM 1119 English grade C or IELTS 6.5 with no band lower than 5.5
• Brickfields Asia College, Malaysia SPM 1119 English grade C or IELTS 6.5 with no band lower than 5.5

Exemptions for Majority English Speaking Countries

Students who are nationals from a majority English-speaking country (as defined by the Home Office) are automatically assumed to meet minimum English language requirements. These countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America.

English as medium of instruction

Students with the following qualifications and study backgrounds are accepted as meeting both the University’s and the UKVI’s B2 English language requirements and are exempted from taking an English language test if the course they are applying for is at Bachelors level or above (NQF level 6):

• Completion of upper secondary education in the English medium (including British and American Schools overseas);
• where the student has passed UK A level English;
• International Baccalaureate including English;
• UK Bachelor or higher degree undertaken overseas.
• Bachelor or higher degrees from accredited UK, US and Australian Overseas university campuses may be accepted if the applicant has studied in the UK for more than a year and the study has been undertaken within the last two years.