

# UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

## English Language Requirements

### **Background**

As a Sponsor of Tier 4 student visas, the University is responsible for assessing that all applicants' English ability is at 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 as detailed on the University website 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 IELTS, or Trinity College test the applicant should provide minimum scores 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 and any individual scores required by the University for Academic purposes.

Below details 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 as assessed and verified by the University of Liverpool.

### **English medium education**

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):

- Where the student has passed UK A level English;
- International Baccalaureate including English;
- US High School Diploma.
- Bachelor or higher degrees from accredited UK, US, Canadian and Australian Overseas university campuses may be accepted if studied within the last two years.

### **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.

Students who have studied the first two years at undergraduate level, or a full undergraduate degree or a postgraduate taught masters at Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University (XJTLU) in the medium of English

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

Students who are nationals from a majority English-speaking country (as defined by the UKVI) 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  
United States of America

Those who have previously completed an academic qualification equivalent to a UK degree which was taught in what we call a 'majority English-speaking' country (within two years of the start date of the programme at UOL):

Antigua and Barbuda  
Australia  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
Dominica  
Grenada  
Guyana  
Ireland  
Jamaica  
New Zealand  
St Kitts and Nevis  
St Lucia  
St Vincent and the Grenadines  
Trinidad and Tobago  
United States of America

### **Statement of Comparability - NARIC**

The UKVI advise applicants who have studied in a majority English speaking country at equivalent degree level or above and are planning to use this study as evidence of English Language to provide a statement of comparability. However Universities are still allowed to assess applicants English Language directly if they wish and not request this statement. The University of Liverpool does not currently require applicants who have studied a degree equivalent or above qualification to provide a statement of comparability from NARIC.

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. Such cases will be considered by the Admissions Team and must be approved by the Head of Admissions and the Head of Department 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 IELTS (SELT), or Trinity College (SELT) 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** (valid within two years of the test date):

- IELTS, Pearson Academic, TOEFL;
- Cambridge - First Certificate, Advanced, Proficiency.

### **International Academic Qualifications in English Language** (see individual country pages for gradings required):

- A level English (UK examining boards)
- Botswana Cambridge Overseas School Certificate
- Brunei Cambridge O Level
- Cameroon GCSE O Level (British system)
- Caribbean Examination General Council Proficiency
- European Baccalaureate (English first or second language)
- Hong Kong – HKCEE, A Level Use of English, HKDSE English language
- Indian SSSC 12<sup>th</sup> Standard English Language
- IGCSE as a First or Second Language (If studied post 2009 and results are accompanied by a supplementary sheet), GCSE, O Level (UK examining boards)
- International Baccalaureate (English A1, A2 & B)
- Kenya KSCE (EAACE) English Language
- Malaysian SPM 1119 English Language
- Malawi School Certificate of Education
- Singapore Cambridge A Level
- South African National Senior Certificate (SANSC or NSC)
- Tanzania – ASCE English
- Uganda Certificate of Education – English language
- West African Countries – 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
- 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.

All other qualifications should be referred to the central Admissions team.