

Higher Education – English Language Proficiency Standards



English Language Proficiency

This information is for **domestic applicants** applying for entry into TAFE Queensland higher education courses through QTAC or direct entry with TAFE Queensland.

In addition to meeting specific academic requirements for each course, applicants must be able to speak, write, read and comprehend English to a certain standard to be accepted into a TAFE Queensland higher education course of study. This is known as 'English Language Proficiency'.

Domestic applicants born outside of selected countries are required to meet the English Language Proficiency requirements set by TAFE Queensland for each higher education course of study.

Selected countries exempt from the English Language Proficiency requirements include Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa and the United States of America.

Applicants must demonstrate English Language Proficiency if:

- English is your second language, and
- you have not taken a course taught entirely in English in a [country](#) approved by TAFE Queensland and to a level (e.g. diploma) and standard (e.g. pass/fail) required.

Meeting the minimum requirements

Applicants can demonstrate they meet English Language Proficiency requirements by providing evidence of:

- (a) English language test results;
- (b) formal study; and/or
- (c) work experience.

English language tests

Applicants can demonstrate English language skills by achieving at least:

- a 6.0 overall (Writing 6.0, all other skills no less than 5.5) of the IELTS test for Associate Degree or similar level courses; or
- a 6.5 overall (with no score lower than 6.0 in all skills) of the IELTS test for Bachelor or similar level courses.

Refer to [acceptable scores in equivalent tests](#) of other tests.

Applicants who do not meet any of the above listed requirements, may enrol in one of our intensive [English language courses](#).

Formal study

1. Completed senior secondary schooling where the medium of instruction is English
2. Completion of a tertiary qualification deemed comparable to an Australian AQF Diploma or higher where the language instruction is English, with a passing GPA (4.0 or better).

3. Successfully undertaken a minimum of one year of full-time equivalent tertiary study within the last five years, deemed comparable to an Australian bachelor degree or higher with a passing GPA (4.0 or better) from an accredited university or institution recognised by TAFE Queensland.
4. Completion of an approved Australian tertiary preparation program (e.g. Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation) within the last five years. Results must include a pass in one of the following (or similar) tertiary preparation subjects: English, Academic English, Academic Writing, Language and Learning Skills, Effective Communication, Academic Literacy Skills.

Work experience

5. Acceptable evidence of sufficient English language skills developed through paid or voluntary work experience in a primarily English-speaking professional environment for at least 3 years immediately before the start of your TAFE Queensland studies.

TAFE Queensland only recognises accredited universities or institutions for English language proficiency purposes where English is the medium of instruction and assessment.

Documentation

Applicants must include certified copies of academic transcripts and award certificates to help demonstrate their English Language Proficiency at time of applying for the course of study.

To be valid, English language tests must have been taken within 2 years of commencing study at TAFE Queensland. All test results will be verified with the relevant test authority prior to enrolment.