



English Language Requirements Policy

Document Type	Policy
Document owner	Joanne Cooper, Head of Admissions
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Amendments	New grading for Skills for English test New test provider - Trinity College London
Related Policies & Procedures	Postgraduate Taught Admissions Policy Postgraduate Research Degrees Admissions Policy

1. SCOPE

1.1 The aim of this policy is to support the admission of students through procedures that are fair, transparent and applied consistently. LSHTM is committed to providing a professional and efficient admissions service which is consistent with good practices as defined by the [Quality Assurance Agency's UK Quality Code, Advice and Guidance: Admissions, Recruitment and Widening Access](#).

1.2 Exemptions

1.2.1 Applicants who are a national of a [UKVI-recognised English-speaking country](#) or who have successfully completed an appropriate academic qualification (assessed by UK ENIC as equivalent to a UK Bachelor's degree), which was taught in a country from the UKVI approved country list, automatically meet the School's English Language requirements.

Please note that Canadian nationals are exempt from meeting English Language requirements but non-Canadian nationals who have studied in Canada are still required to meet the English Language requirements for their preferred programme due to Home Office regulations.

1.2.2 Applicants studying on the following 'assessed' Short Courses only will not be required to take an English language test if they have 18 months experience working in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

- Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing
 - Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & International Health (London)
 - Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & International Health (East African Partnership)
 - Professional Certificate in Pharmacoepidemiology & Pharmacovigilance
- Applicants applying to study the intensive online MSc Sexual & Reproductive Health Policy and Programming only will not be required to take an English language test if they have in the last ten years, successfully completed a degree-level course comparable to a UK Bachelor's Degree at a [UK ENIC](#) recognised institution where the medium of instruction and assessment throughout the course is in English
 - 1.2.3 This concession only applies to MSc, PG Certificate and PG Diploma in Sexual & Reproductive Health Policy and Programming.



2. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

- 2.1 It is essential that all students have a good command of the English language to benefit from their studies at the School.
- 2.2 As part of the application process, applicants are required to demonstrate how they meet the School's minimum English language requirements. This is particularly important for applicants requiring a Student Visa, as the [UK Home Office](#) requires every student from outside the UK and Ireland to show evidence of a minimum level of English language ability (called CEFR¹ B2 level), in order for a Student visa to be issued for entry to the UK.
- 2.3 Additionally, the School asks applicants to have minimum English language proficiency levels that are necessary for our academic programmes. These levels are higher than the CEFR B2 minimum level.
- 2.4 The academic English language requirements for each of the School's programmes are categorised into one of three profiles:²
- **Band A (highest requirement)**
 - **Band B (standard requirement)**
 - **Band C (lowest requirement)**

Please refer to the appropriate [Course Description](#) pages for the English language requirement Bands of specific programmes.

3. POLICY

3.1 Proficiency Tests

3.1.1 The School accepts the following English proficiency tests:

- [IELTS UKVI Academic](#)
- [LanguageCert Academic SELT](#)
- [Pearson PTE Academic](#)
- [Skills for English](#)
- [Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English - ISE III](#)

3.1.2 Applicants requiring a Student visa are strongly recommended to obtain one of these English proficiency tests, as other tests may not meet the minimum requirements to support a visa application. Applicants taking alternative English tests should contact admissions@lshtm.ac.uk for advice.

3.1.3 The School will only accept proficiency tests that were completed and passed within two years of the start of the programme. English tests taken prior to this date will not be considered as valid.

3.1.4 The School does not combine scores from multiple tests with the exception of IELTS One Skill Retake tests, which are accepted.

¹ Common European Framework for Languages

² See Section 3.5 for details



3.1.5 Online tests, including IELTS Online, are not accepted.

3.1.6 The School requires the following minimum proficiency test scores:

Test name	Band A	Band B	Band C
IELTS Academic	7.5 overall with 7.0 in each component	7.0 overall with 6.5 in each component	6.5 overall with 6.0 in each component
Language Cert Academic SELT	80 overall with 75 in each component	75 overall with 70 in each component	70 overall with 65 in each component
Pearson PTE Academic	80 overall with 80 in each component	76 with 76 in each component	59 with 59 in each component
Skills for English	Pass in Skills for English Secure English Language Test for speaking, listening, reading and writing at CEFR level C1	Pass with <u>Merit</u> in Skills for English Secure English Language Test for speaking, listening, reading and writing at CEFR level B2	Pass in Skills for English Secure English Language Test for speaking, listening, reading and writing at CEFR level B2
Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English - ISE	Level III with: Merit in two components Pass in two components	Level III with: Pass in each component	Level II with: Distinction in one component Merit in two components Pass in one component

3.2 Appeals

3.3 If an offer-holder believes that they should not be required to take an English language test (and does not require a specific English language qualification to support an application for a Student visa), they may appeal the English Language condition of their Offer of Admission.

3.4 Appeals should be emailed to admissions@lshtm.ac.uk as a written statement outlining the reasons for exemption. Supporting documentary evidence of any previous education, professional work or published work which demonstrates proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening in English should be attached.

The appeal will be reviewed by the Admissions Manager, MSc Programme Director or Research Supervisor, and Head of Admissions.

If the appeal is accepted, the English Language offer condition will be met. If the appeal is rejected, the English Language requirement will remain as a condition of the Offer of Admission.

3.5 English language appeals may only be submitted after an offer has been issued.

3.6 Enquiries

Applicants with any queries related to LSHTM's English language requirements, or the validity of a current English language proficiency test or qualification, should contact Admissions at admissions@lshtm.ac.uk.