



The University of Sydney

Postgraduate English Language Requirements

Amended by the Academic Board on 14 December 2005

Date of effect: 15 December 2005

Appendix last amended: 27 February 2008

1. Policy

This policy outlines the Academic Board's position on English language requirements for applicants for postgraduate award courses for whom English is not their first language.

2. Background

The Academic Board has established the minimum English language requirements for postgraduate award course applicants. Faculties may ask the Academic Board to approve specific requirements above the University minimum levels. Students must be made aware of the English language requirements at the time of application.

3. Coverage

This policy applies to all applicants, both local and international, for postgraduate coursework and postgraduate research award courses.

4. Principles

4.1 Once candidates have satisfied academic eligibility provisions (admission) and met any necessary student visa requirements, candidates must also satisfy these provisions relating to English language proficiency.

4.2 Faculties may request that the Academic Board approve English language requirements above the minimum set out in 4.3.3 below. Approved Faculty variations above the minimum requirements are set out in appendix one of this policy.

4.3 Proof of proficiency in English may include:

4.3.1 a record of satisfactory achievement in tertiary studies in which the language of the institution was English and the language of instruction, examination and assessment was English. Satisfactory achievement will be determined by the appropriate Faculty and should be relevant to the discipline concerned.

4.3.2 successful completion of the course "English for Academic Purposes" at the University's Centre for English Teaching.

4.3.3 an internationally recognised English language test meeting the University minimum requirements, or approved Faculty requirements where these are higher than the University minimum:

- 4.3.3.1 IELTS (International English Language Testing Scheme) overall band score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band; or
- 4.3.3.2 TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) 577 plus TWE (Test of Written English) at 4.5; or
- 4.3.3.3 CBT (Computer-based TOEFL) 233 plus Essay Rating 4.5; or
- 4.3.3.4 Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English grade A or B;
- 4.3.3.5 GCSW English language grade A or B; or
- 4.3.3.6 CULT (Combined Universities Language Test 70); or
- 4.3.3.7 the relevant Faculty requirements set out in Appendix One, where the requirements are higher than the University minimum above.

5. **Dean's ability to waive English language requirements in certain circumstances**

- 5.1 In accordance with the *Delegations of Authority: Academic Functions*, the Dean of the Faculty has the ability to waive English language requirements in certain circumstances.
- 5.2 In waiving English language requirements the Dean of the Faculty must be satisfied, on the advice of the head of department/school concerned that the candidate has English language competency to enable the successful completion of the course.
- 5.3 The Dean of the Faculty may waive English language requirements where a candidate submits a recognised English language test score which deviates from the University, or specific course requirements by:
 - 5.3.1 IELTS (International English Language Testing Scheme) not more than 0.5 below the overall band score and not more than 1.0 below in any of the individual bands; or
 - 5.3.2 TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) no lower than [International Office to provide equivalent] plus no lower than TWE (Test of Written English) at [International Office to provide equivalent];
- 5.4 In establishing satisfaction that the candidate has English language competency to enable the successful completion of the course, where the Dean is waiving English language requirements, the Dean may consider all relevant factors including such things as ability to communicate in an academic environment; the fact of a student having been known to the Faculty for at least two years; previous appropriate work experience in an English language environment; and verbal discussion between the Faculty and the candidate.
- 5.5 The Graduate Studies Committee (in the case of postgraduate coursework courses) and the Research and Research Training Committee (in the case of postgraduate research courses) may approve exceptions to the limits for 5.3 in exceptional circumstances.

6. **Time limits**

- 6.1 Where a candidate is providing proof of proficiency in English through a record of satisfactory achievement in tertiary studies. The tertiary studies must have been undertaken no more than a maximum of 5 years prior to the application.
- 6.2 Where a candidate is providing proof of proficiency in English through successful completion of an appropriate course at the University's Centre for

English Teaching, the course shall have been completed no more than 2 years prior to the application

- 6.3 Where a candidate is providing proof of proficiency in English through an internationally recognised English language test, scores older than two years at the time of application will not be accepted.

7. Procedures for waiving English language requirements

7.1 The Dean must record in writing the approval to waive English requirements on an individual basis outlining:

- 7.1.1 the proof of proficiency in English provided by the candidate;
7.1.2 the reasons, in accordance with this policy, the Dean approved the waiver.

7.2 The Faculty Office (or appropriate administrative unit) shall ensure:

- 7.2.1 a record of the approved waiving of requirements is kept on the student file;
7.2.2 for local applicants, that the basis for admission is recorded in FlexSIS; and
7.2.3 for International applicants, that the International Office is advised of the approval to waive English requirements and the basis for the decision and that the International Office ensures that the basis for admission is recorded in FlexSIS.

8. Authority

8.1 Development/consultation

Consultation on this policy involved the International Office, the Strategic Director (Internationalisation), faculties, the Postgraduate Research Training Sub-Committee, Graduate Studies Committee, and the Academic Board.

8.2 Management responsibility

The Dean of Graduate Studies shall have overall management responsibility for the policy.

8.3 Implementation and monitoring

The Dean of Graduate Studies shall have responsibility for implementing and monitoring the policy.

8.4 Review

The Dean of Graduate Studies shall initiate a review of the policy in July 2006

8.5 Communication

The Dean of Graduate Studies shall be responsible for communicating the policy.

8.6 Contact

Inquiries should be directed to:
Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies
H04
Phone: 9036 9518
E-mail: DoGS@usyd.edu.au

9. Related information

- 9.1 Related University legislation, resolutions, policies and procedures include:
9.1.1 University of Sydney (Amendment Act) Rule 1999 (as amended) at

- <http://www.usyd.edu.au/publications/calendar/>
- 9.1.2 Probationary candidate and English expression at
http://db.usyd.edu.au/policy/policy_index.stm
- 9.2 University policies superseded or replaced by this policy:
 - 9.2.1 Postgraduate English Language Requirements (approved 28 April 2004) at
http://db.usyd.edu.au/policy/policy_index.stm
- 9.3 External legislation, resolutions, policies related to this policy include:
 - 9.3.1 Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 at
<http://www.dest.gov.au/esos/>
 - 9.3.2 National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students (The National Code) at
http://www.dest.gov.au/esos/National_Code/contents.htm

Appendix One: Schedule of approved Faculty variations, above the University minimum requirements

Faculty	Course	Requirements (above the University minimum)	Approval Date
Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources			
Faculty of Architecture	All postgraduate award courses	For students without a Bachelor's Degree from an English language university, and who have studied less than two years in an institution of English instruction, an IELTS score of a minimum average of 7.0 with no section below 6.0 must be provided.	18 April 2007
Faculty of Arts	Master of Media Practice Graduate Diploma in Media Practice Graduate Certificate in Media Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL – 600 or better plus TWE at 4.5+ • IELTS – Overall band score 6.5 or better; with a minimum of 7.0 in Writing AND Speaking; minimum 6.0 in Listening AND Reading 	29 August 2007
Faculty of Dentistry	Master of Dental Science in Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology, Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS 7 with no band below 6.0 or • TOEFL 600 plus TWE 4.5 or • Computer-based TOEFL 250 with an Essay Rating of 4.5. 	18 April 2007
Faculty of Economics and Business	All postgraduate award courses except the Commerce courses and the Master of Public Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL – 600 or better plus TWE at 4.5+ • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.0 	11 July 2007
Faculty of Education and Social Work	Master of Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better with no band less than 7.5 	27 February 2008
Faculty of Engineering			
Faculty of Health Sciences	Doctor of Health Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS - Overall band of 7.0, with individual band of speaking and writing of no less than 6.5 	12 June 2002 (effective from 1 January 2003)
	Master of Occupational Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL – 600 or better, plus TWE at 5.0+ • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7 for Speaking and for Writing on each band 	29 August 2007
	Master of Diagnostic Radiography, Master of Nuclear Medicine and Master of Radiation Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL – 600 or better, plus TWE at 5.0+ • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 6.5 for Speaking and for Writing on each band 	29 August 2007
	All postgraduate Physiotherapy courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better 	17 May 2006

		with individual bands of speaking and writing of 7.0	
	Master of Speech Language Pathology; Master of Speech Language Pathology (Honours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 in each of the components 	15 September 2004
	All postgraduate award courses in the School of Exercise and Sports Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better with individual bands of speaking and writing of no less than 6.5 	2 November 2005
	Combined degrees of: Bachelor of Health Sciences / Master of Clinical Vision Sciences; Bachelor of Health Sciences / Master of Health Information Management; Bachelor of Health Sciences / Master of Rehabilitation Counselling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with individual bands of speaking and writing of no less than 7.0 TOEFL – 600 or better, plus TWE at 5+, computer 250 or better, plus essay rating of 5 or better CULT – 85 	4 October 2006
Faculty of Law	All postgraduate award courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 6.0 in each of the components 	12 February 1997
Faculty of Medicine	All postgraduate award courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOEFL – 577 or better overall, plus TWE at 4.5+ 	2 November 2005
Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery	All postgraduate award courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 in each of the components 	14 August 2002
Faculty of Pharmacy	All postgraduate award courses, with the exception of the Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOEFL – 600 or better plus TWE at 4.5+ IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with no component being below 6.5 	11 October 2007 (effective from 1 January 2008)
Faculty of Science	Master of Nutrition and Dietetics; Master of Nutritional Science; Master of Applied Science (Nutrition and Dietetics); Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Nutrition and Dietetics); and Graduate Certificate in Applied Science (Nutrition and Dietetics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall band score of 7.5 or better, with at least 6.5 in each of the components 	14 November 2005 (effective from 1 January 2006)
	Graduate Certificate in Applied Science (Psychology of Coaching), Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Psychology of Coaching) and Master of Applied Science (Psychology of Coaching)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS: Overall band score of 7.5 as a minimum on each band with no band falling below a score of 6.0 	16 March 2005 (effective from 1 January 2005)
	Master of Environmental Science and Law and Master of Environmental Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with no band less than 6.0 	2 November 2005
	Doctor of Clinical Psychology; Doctor of Clinical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IELTS – Overall score of 7.0, with no band 	14 November 2005 (effective from 1

	Neuropsychology	less than 7.0	January 2006)
Faculty of Veterinary Science	All postgraduate award courses except the Veterinary Public Health Management courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS: Overall band score of 7.0 with no band falling below a score of 6.5. • TOEFL: 600 or better plus TWE at 5.0+ • CBT: 250 plus essay rating 5.0 	16 March 2005 (effective from 1 January 2005)
	Master of Veterinary Public Health Management; Graduate Diploma in Veterinary Public Health Management; and Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Public Health Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL – 600 or better plus TWE at 5.0+ • CBT – 250 plus Essay Rating 5.0 • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 or better, with at least 7.0 for Speaking and 7.0 for Writing on each band. 	12 November 2003
Sydney College of the Arts			
Sydney Conservatorium of Music	All postgraduate award courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band score of 7.0 with no band less than 6.5 	2 November 2005
	Graduate Certificate of Music Studies (Pedagogy), Graduate Diploma of Music Studies (Pedagogy) and Master of Music Studies (Pedagogy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 	2 November 2005
	Graduate Certificate of Music Studies (Creative Sound Production), Graduate Diploma of Music Studies (Creative Sound Production) and Master of Music Studies (Creative Sound Production)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 	2 November 2005
	the Graduate Diploma of Music (Performance) and Master of Music Studies (Performance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS – Overall band of 6.0 	2 November 2005