

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All students, whether from the UK or overseas, have to provide evidence that their English is strong enough for university study. Having a good level of English is essential to give you the best chance of academic success - even British students can have problems expressing their ideas and writing in an academic style! But just as important, you will have a much richer and more satisfying experience as a student, if you start your studies in the UK with a good level of English.

If you need a visa to study in the UK, you will definitely need to provide evidence of your level of English, and the UK's Visa and Immigration service (UKVI) will only accept certain exams (called Secure English Language Tests or SELTs) taken at test centres which they approve. Follow this link to see [the most up-to-date list of SELTs and approved test centres](#). You will also need to provide evidence of your level of English to the university you are applying to.

Even if you don't need a visa, your future UK university may ask that you provide evidence of your level of English. Each university also has a list of exams and grades that they accept to provide such evidence. This information will be available on their website, and when you apply they will make clear what minimum grade you need to achieve.

You need to be aware that there will be differences in the exams and grades accepted by UKVI and university admissions offices. For example, the grade required to obtain a Tier 4 visa may be much lower than the grade needed to satisfy your university's admission requirements.

IELTS

There is a range of approved SELTS that you can use (e.g Trinity College's Integrated Skills in English test) but IELTS is most commonly used, and it is accepted by both UKVI and all UK universities. In addition, you can take IELTS in 140 different countries. There are several different versions of IELTS and you should check with your university's admissions office which versions are accepted for the programme on which you plan to study.

You may need to take an language course to improve your level of English. Language learning takes time and people make different rates of progress, so if your level is fairly low it is a good idea to take a course in your own country, so that you can judge how long it will take you to get to the level you need.

If you are close to the level you need, and even if you have achieved the minimum required level, following a pre-sessional course is an ideal way to prepare for academic study. Most UK universities offer pre-sessional courses, particularly during the summer months, and these will help you improve your English and the develop in far greater depth the academic skills that we have introduced in this course.

Academic conditions

You will also need to prove that you have the right academic qualifications for the course that you want to study on. University websites provide information on which qualifications from different countries are accepted, and if you are unsure you can always check with the university, before application, that your qualifications are accepted and that you have the grades you need.

