

# English Language Requirements for 2012 entry

## Background

The Board of Graduate Studies (at its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011) approved changes to the English Language requirements for postgraduate study to take effect from the 2012 cycle.

The following note sets out the new requirements. Relevant web pages will be updated in due course (and before the start of the new cycle).

## Key Changes

In summary, there are two main changes to the requirements.

1. Previously, the University only expressed its requirements in terms of the overall score an applicant obtained in Secure English Language Tests (SELTs). The new policy specifically sets out minimum component scores. This enables the University to comply with the UK Border Agency policy more easily, whilst giving applicants more transparent information from the outset. Equally, the new policy enables the University and the Centre for Applied Linguistics to ensure only suitable candidates are made an offer inclusive of attendance at the pre-session English course.
2. Following more recent research into the various SELTs, new data on how the tests are benchmarked against one another is available. The University has taken the opportunity to ensure its requirements across the tests are as equitable as possible.

The new policy refers to “bands” of courses and departments. These bands relate to the overall SELT score (expressed in IELTS terms) which applicants needed to achieve. For example, courses in Band A require an overall score of 6.5, Band B requires 7.0 and so forth.

The Board of Graduate Studies recognises only the following SELTs: IELTS, TOEFL (iBT), Pearson Academic, Cambridge Advanced and Cambridge Proficiency. The TOEFL PB test is not recognised as being a secure test and the TOEFL CB test was discontinued more than two years ago and as such all tests are no longer valid.

## IELTS

Table 1 sets out the new requirements for the IELTS test.

<b>Banding</b>	<b>Overall score</b>	<b>Component scores</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 5-weeks pre-sessional</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 10-weeks pre-sessional</b>
Band A	6.5	no component below 6.0	6.5 overall 1 component at 5.5	6.0 overall 2 components at 5.5
Band B	7.0	no component below 6.5	7.0 overall 1 component at 6.0	6.5 overall 2 components at 6.0
Band C	7.5	no component below 7.0	7.5 overall 1 component at 6.5	7.0 overall 2 components at 6.5
Band D	8.0	no component below 7.5	8.0 overall 1 component at 7.0	7.5 overall 2 components at 7.0

## TOEFL (iBT)

Table 2a sets out the new requirements for the TOEFL (iBT) test.

<b>Banding</b>	<b>Overall IELTS equivalent</b>	<b>Overall TOEFL score</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 5-weeks pre-sessional</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 10-weeks pre-sessional</b>
Band A	6.5	92	82	77
Band B	7.0	100	92	82
Band C	7.5	108	100	92
Band D	8.0	113	108	100

Table 2b sets out the new minimum component scores which will apply to the TOEFL (iBT) test in addition to the above minimum overall score.

	<b>Listening</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Speaking</b>
Offer without pre-sessional	21	22	21	23
Offer inclusive of 5-weeks pre-sessional	19	19	20	22
Offer inclusive of 10-weeks pre-sessional	17	15	19	21

## Pearson (PTE) Academic

Table 3 sets out the new requirements for the Pearson (PTE) Academic test.

<b>Banding</b>	<b>Overall IELTS equivalent</b>	<b>Overall PTE score</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 5-weeks pre-sessional</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 10-weeks pre-sessional</b>
Band A	6.5	62	54	50
Band B	7.0	70	62	54
Band C	7.5	75	70	62
Band D	8.0	79	75	70

In addition to the above overall score, applicants sitting the Pearson (PTE) Academic test must also achieve a minimum of 59 in each component (for entry without pre-sessional English) or a minimum of 43 in each component (for entry inclusive of pre-sessional English).

## Cambridge Advanced (CAE)

Table 4 sets out the requirements for the Cambridge Advanced test.

<b>Standard CAE offer</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 5-weeks pre-sessional</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 10-weeks pre-sessional</b>
Overall 60+ (Pass Grade C) Not less than 3 borderline and 1 weak components	Overall 45 – 59 (Pass CEFR Level B2) Not less than 2 borderline and 2 weak components	Overall 45 – 59 (Pass CEFR Level B2) Not less than 1 borderline and 3 weak components

For courses in Bands C and D it is recommended that the standard offer be increased to a Pass at Level B (not to be confused with Level B2) with a minimum overall score of 75.

## Cambridge Proficiency (CPE)

Table 5 sets out the requirements for the Cambridge Proficiency test.

<b>Standard CPE offer</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 5-weeks pre-sessional</b>	<b>Entry inclusive of 10-weeks pre-sessional</b>
Any pass grade	Voluntary only with any pass grade	Voluntary only with any pass grade

The above table applies to courses in all bands. The CPE test is benchmarked as being equivalent to not less than an IELTS score of 8.0.