

English Language Policy

1. Purpose

This policy is in place to detail the English language requirements for all students seeking admission to University of Gloucestershire courses. This is to ensure that entry requirements are standardised and adhered to, and that UK Home Office immigration rules are not infringed. This policy applies to all programmes leading to a UK based University of Gloucestershire award or INTO University of Gloucestershire award (excluding other collaborative partners).

2. Responsibilities

- 2.1 The University of Gloucestershire (UoG) has a responsibility to ensure that all students have the necessary English language ability required to complete the programme to which they are admitted, and to comply with UK Home Office Immigration rules regarding minimum English language levels.
- 2.2 Assessment of English language proficiency will be based on qualifications achieved to date, and will initially be the responsibility of the UoG Admissions team to assess against UoG entry requirements. If doubts arise as to the application of UK Home Office rules, the UoG Immigration Compliance team will make a further assessment.
- 2.3 English language requirements for entry onto UoG courses are agreed as part of the course validation process, and will be assessed by the Immigration Compliance team to ensure UK Home Office requirements are met.
- 2.4 INTO UoG Admissions will be responsible for assessing English language proficiency against INTO UoG course entry requirements. If doubts arise pertaining to UK Home Office immigration rules, the UoG Immigration Compliance team will make a further assessment.
- 2.5 The English language requirements for entry onto INTO UoG courses will be determined as part of the course validation process at UoG.
- 2.6 Admissions teams will not issue students with an unconditional offer until English language ability has been assessed and confirmed as meeting the relevant entry requirements.
- 2.7 There may be additional requirements to be met if the student requires Tier 4 visa sponsorship. The requirements are embedded in the UK immigration rules and may exceed the standard requirements of the University. In these cases, the UK immigration rules must be adhered to.
- 2.8 Certificate of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) statements for Tier 4 visa support will not be issued until a copy of the student's official English language qualification has been seen by the relevant admissions team and the appropriate checks taken to ensure the document is genuine and meets UK Home Office immigration rules. A copy of this document will be retained on file by the UoG Immigration Compliance Office or, in the case of INTO UoG applicants, the INTO UoG Admissions team.
- 2.9 Where students are progressing from pre-sessional English courses taught at INTO UoG, INTO UoG will be responsible for assessing these students' English language proficiency. Before progression to UoG or INTO UoG courses these students must have achieved the required English language level as set out in the relevant entry requirements.
- 2.10 In-sessional English language support may be provided by schools (INTO UoG is involved with the delivery of in-sessional modules), but this can only be to help further develop a student's English language ability in-session after already having achieved the required English language level prior to admission.
- 2.11 Where there are concerns for the University's Tier 4 sponsor licence, the Immigration Compliance team will make an assessment and take appropriate action. Where necessary, admission based on particular qualifications may be suspended pending further investigation, and ultimately qualifications may be removed from the University's list of accepted qualifications. To remain compliant with UK immigration rules, this may happen at any time and without notice.
- 2.12 UoG and INTO UoG English language requirements are subject to change based on future assessments of English language qualifications used for acceptance, developments with UK Home Office Immigration rules, and changes to UoG and INTO UoG policy.

2.13 This policy is subject to change at any time to ensure agreement with UK Home Office immigration rules. If immigration rules relating to any aspect of this policy change (as can often be the case) then the immigration rules must be followed during the interim period while this policy is updated to reflect these changes. UK immigration rules are subject to change with little or no notice. The UK Home Office immigration rules require that all Tier 4 students achieve an acceptable standard of English language before a Tier 4 visa for study in the UK can be issued.

3. English Language Entry Requirements

UK Nationals

- 3.1 All UK nationals will be expected to provide evidence (via UCAS, physical certificate or other verifiable method) of having achieved a grade C (or 4, for post 2017 results) in GCSE English language or a pass in Functional Skills in English. Other qualifications may also be accepted, and applicants should contact UoG Admissions for a full list.
- 3.2 Students who have Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK, or some other form of permanent legal residence, will also be able to evidence English language proficiency via paragraph 3.1. This ILR or permanent legal residence must be evidenced as part of the student's application.

EU/EEA Nationals

- 3.3 EU/EEA nationals (who are not also UK nationals) will be required to provide an IELTS test report which meets CEFR B2, or an equivalent school or college qualification in English which confirms this standard has been met. Applicants should contact UoG Admissions for details of which qualifications will be accepted.
- 3.4 Non-EU/EEA nationals who have permanent legal residence in an EU/EEA country will also be able to evidence English language proficiency via paragraph 3.3. This permanent legal residence must be evidenced as part of the student's application.

Non-UK/EU/EEA Nationals

- 3.5 All students who are non-UK/EU/EEA nationals (known as 'international' students) will be required to provide verifiable evidence that they have met the required level of English language ability for the programme. Those with permanent legal residence within the UK or EU may be assessed via paragraph 3.1 or 3.3 instead. Applicants can see a list of English language qualifications accepted in section 6 of this document. Students with qualifications not listed should contact UoG Admissions for clarification on whether their qualifications will be accepted. There may be additional requirements for students wishing to study on a Tier 4 or Short Term Study visa, which can be found below.

Additional Requirements for Tier 4 and Short Term Study Visa Students

- 3.6 Students who are nationals of a majority English speaking country will be exempt from providing evidence of English language proficiency for Tier 4 purposes. The list of majority English speaking countries is determined by the UK Home Office in the "*Tier 4 Guidance for Sponsors - Document 2: Sponsorship Duties*". This list is subject to change but as of April 2019 includes nationals of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America. The latest guidance from the UK Home Office should be consulted to confirm which countries feature on the list at the time of admission.
- 3.7 The University has the capacity to exempt other nationalities based on testing and supporting evidence which confirms that the clear majority of nationals from the nation in question will have a proficiency in English which makes them capable of completing the course. No assessments of this type have so far been made at UoG.
- 3.8 Students who have successfully completed a qualification equivalent to a UK degree (this equivalence must be evidenced by UK NARIC) which has been taught in one of the following nations will also be exempt: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America. If the qualification used is more than

10 years old, the student must also pass a UoG Internal English Language Assessment meeting the level required for the course.

3.9 Students using paragraph 3.8 to evidence English proficiency must have studied at least one of the following:

- a) one year (level 6) of a University of Gloucestershire Undergraduate programme taught at UoG or as a validated or franchised degree programme taught in the medium of English overseas
- b) one year (level 6) of any other degree programme taught at a recognised university in the UK
- c) one year (level 6) of any other degree programme taught in a majority English speaking country
- d) one year (level 6) of any other degree programme taught through the medium of English in a non-majority English speaking country, and must also achieve the required level of English on a UoG Internal English Language Assessment
- e) two years of (level 5 & 6) of any other degree programme taught in a majority English speaking country or through the medium of English at a non-majority English speaking country
- f) two years of (level 4 & 5) of any other degree programme taught in a majority English speaking country or through the medium of English at a non-majority English speaking country, and must also achieve the required level of English on a UoG Internal English Language Assessment
- g) a full master's degree programme taught in a majority English speaking country
- h) a full master's degree programme taught through the medium of English in a non-majority English speaking country, and must also achieve the required level of English on a UoG Internal English Language Assessment

3.10 Students transferring from a UoG validated or franchised degree programme, taught in the medium of English overseas, who apply to complete their studies on the same programme delivered at UoG must have successfully completed at least one full academic year of the course at the partner.

3.11 Students using a UK qualification to evidence English language proficiency must have a bachelor's degree, a master's or a PhD. Equivalents to these may be accepted but only once the University has made its own assessment of the qualification.

3.12 Students moving from a Tier 4 (Child) to Tier 4 (General) visa will be exempt, as per the Tier 4 sponsor guidance.

3.13 The minimum English Language requirements for entry onto a UoG or INTO UoG programme are detailed below as IELTS band scores in relation to level of study. If the student has not taken an IELTS test, other equivalent alternative assessments or qualifications may be considered, as detailed in sections 4, 5 and 6.

3.14 The UoG standard English language entry requirements for undergraduate courses are:

- a) Bachelor degree courses (level 4 & 5 & 6 entry) - IELTS 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any component
- b) Bachelor 'studies route' degree courses - IELTS 5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any component

3.15 The UoG standard English language entry requirements for Postgraduate courses are:

- a) Postgraduate degree courses - IELTS 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any component
- b) Postgraduate Research Programmes - IELTS 6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in writing and no less than 5.5 in any other component

3.16 Exceptions to paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10 include (and will also be listed in the course validation documents):

- a) BSc Nursing (Adult and Mental Health) - IELTS 7.0 overall with no less than 7.0 in any component
- b) BSc Paramedic Science - IELTS 7.0 overall with no less than 7.0 in any component
- c) BSc Physiotherapy - IELTS 7.0 overall with no less than 7.0 in any component
- d) Journalism - IELTS 7.0 overall with no less than 7.5 in writing and 5.5 in all other components

3.17 Postgraduate students who have achieved IELTS 6.0 overall will be required to undertake appropriate study skills modules to help them adjust to studying in the UK context.

3.18 The INTO UoG standard English language entry requirements are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) 10 week pre-sessional (25 hours per week) - | IELTS 5 or equivalent overall with a minimum of 4.5 in no more than 2 subskills (for progression to undergraduate) |
| b) 10 week pre-sessional (20 hours per week) - | IELTS 5.5 or equivalent overall with a minimum of 4.5 in no more than 1 subskill (for progression to undergraduate) |
| c) 10 week pre-sessional (25 hours per week) - | IELTS 5 or equivalent overall with 5 in reading and writing (for progression to postgraduate) |
| d) 10 week pre-sessional (20 hours per week) - | IELTS 5.5 or equivalent overall with 5 in reading and writing (for progression to postgraduate) |
| e) 10 week pre-sessional (20 hours per week) - | IELTS 5 overall with 5 in reading & writing (for Graduate Diploma) |
| f) 10 week pre-sessional (25 hours per week) - | IELTS 4.5 overall with 4.5 in all sub-skills (for Graduate Diploma) |
| g) 10 week pre-sessional (25 hours per week) - | IELTS 5 overall with 5 in reading & writing (International Business Top Up) |
| h) Foundation courses (4 term) - | IELTS 4 overall with a minimum of 4 in all subskills |
| i) Foundation courses (3 term) - | IELTS 4.5 overall with a minimum of 4 in all subskills |
| j) Foundation courses (6 month accelerated) - | IELTS 4.5 overall with a minimum of 4.5 in all subskills |

3.19 Students who have not yet achieved a qualification evidencing that they are at the required English language level for admission onto the course will be advised to take an IELTS test as part of their conditional offer and will be provided with details of appropriate pre-sessional English language support.

3.20 As well as the requirements set out above, the University must also ensure that all students who are to be granted Tier 4 visa sponsorship also meet the UK Home Office minimum English language requirements:

- i) Courses at RQF (previously known as NQF) 6 or above must have an entry requirement of CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) B2 equivalent or higher in each of the four components of assessment (reading, writing, speaking and listening).
- ii) Courses below RQF 6 must have an entry requirement of CEFR B1 equivalent or higher in each of the four components of assessment.

3.21 UoG and INTO UoG minimum requirements for entry will never be set beneath the minimum required by the UKVI for students requiring Tier 4 visa support. This would be, at the very minimum, IELTS 5.5 in each component (equivalent to CEFR B2) for courses at RQF6 or above, and a minimum of IELTS 4.0 in each component (equivalent to CEFR B1) for courses below RQF6. Entry requirements may be set higher depending on the demands of the course.

3.22 Tier 4 students on a 'joint CAS' (covering the pre-sessional and main course of study) who fail to pass the pre-sessional with the required level of English needed for the main course by the main course start date will have their offer withdrawn and be reported to the UKVI for visa curtailment. As pre-sessional courses cannot be more than three months long, there is no scope for the student to re-take the pre-sessional. The student may be able to undertake further English language study, but only after returning to their country of ordinary residence and making a fresh Tier 4 application from overseas (see Tier 4 Guidance: Document 2 – Academic Progression).

3.23 Students will only be given a CAS for a below degree level (below RQF6) course once they have a valid Secure English Language Test (SELT) which meets the requirements mentioned above. Equivalent alternative assessments or qualifications will not be accepted for admission onto below degree level courses.

3.24 A SELT below CEFR B1 will never be accepted for a course below RQF6 where Tier 4 visa support is needed. Students who are below CEFR B1 and who wish to take General English or English for University Study may be able to on a Short-Term Study visa.

3.25 Although some students may be exempt from providing evidence of English language for Tier 4 or Short Term Study visa purposes, evidence of English proficiency may still be a condition of admission for academic reasons.

4. Secure English Language Tests

4.1 The UK Home Office publish a list of SELTs that can be used to support a Tier 4 visa application. This list is as follows:

- UKVI IELTS (Academic) – IELTS Consortium
- Integrated Skills in English (ISE) – Trinity College London

4.2 These SELTs have been assessed as acceptable for entry to UoG courses as follows:

UKVI IELTS (Academic)

Course Level	Bachelor 'studies route' degree courses* (Level 4 & 5 entry)	Most bachelor degree courses (Level 4, 5 & 6 entry and 'studies route' Level 6 entry)	BSc Nursing Adult/Mental Health and Paramedic Science	BSc Journalism & Sports Journalism
Bachelor Degree Courses	IELTS 5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any band	IELTS 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any band	IELTS 7.0 overall with no less than 7.0 in any component	IELTS 7.0 overall with no less than 7.5 in writing and no less than 7.0 in any other component

*'Studies route' – Designed for non-native English speakers, students will develop key language skills such as English for Business as part of these courses

Course Level	Postgraduate courses	Postgraduate Research courses
Postgraduate Courses	IELTS 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any component	IELTS 6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in writing and no less than 5.5 in any other component

Integrated Skills in English (ISE)

Qualification/ Test	Examination Board	Validity Period	Grade/Score for IELTS 5.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent
ISE	Trinity College London	2 years before course start date	ISE II with a pass in each component	ISE II with Distinction in all four components	ISE III with Pass in all four components	ISE III with Merit in all four components

5. Alternative English Language Assessments for Admission

5.1 In addition to SELTs, the immigration rules also allow HEIs to make their own assessment of the English language proficiency of students studying at RQF6 or above. The Tier 4 sponsor must assess the student's English language level to ensure that the student will be capable of study at or above degree level, and must be able to justify why any non-SELT English language qualifications have been used as part of the student's admission. The exact sponsor guidance wording is as follows:

"5.11 Depending on whether you are an HEI or not, you must assess the student's English language competence in one of two ways.

If you are an HEI we will allow you to choose your own way to assess it. (You may not have to do this for 'gifted' students. Please see the section titled 'Gifted university students' above). However, you must ensure they are proficient to level B2 in each of the four components (speaking, listening, reading and writing), unless they are exempt from being proficient in a component because of a disability"

"5.12 You must take all reasonable steps to ensure that you are satisfied through your assessment that the applicant meets the language competence requirements. For example, you could interview students. If you have doubts about any documents, then you should verify them with the appropriate body."

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/725666/Tier_4_Sponsor_Guidance_-_Doc_2_-_Sponsorship_Duties_2018-07-16_FINAL.pdf)

- 5.2 Students not exempt under any previous sections of this policy, who do not require Tier 4 sponsorship (those applying for Short-Term-Study visas or holding another type of permission to study in the UK) may also be accepted based on an alternative English language qualification or assessment.
- 5.3 The process for assessing an English language qualification or assessment as suitable to confirm that students have achieved the required standard of English to study the course begins with the suggested qualification first being investigated by UoG Compliance, Admissions and International Recruitment Team. The course leading to the qualification will be reviewed, with specific attention being given to ensure that the qualification not only confirms the student's overall grade, but also confirms that each component (reading, writing, speaking and listening) has been assessed as being at the required level for the course. Where necessary these details will also be reviewed by the English Language team at INTO UoG.
- 5.4 Some alternative qualifications may be accepted which do not specify component scores. If it is possible that a student could have achieved the qualification or assessment being used for admission while having failed to achieve CEFR B2 in one of the individual components, then a UoG Internal English Language Assessment may be taken to supplement this qualification and confirm proficiency in the four components of English language (specifically in relation to students requiring Tier 4 support). This assessment will provide a breakdown of individual component scores.
- 5.5 The UK NARIC database should be used at all times to supplement the above, showing equivalences to UK qualifications. Case studies by other UK HEIs, and any information from the UK Home Office will also be considered.
- 5.6 Any qualifications which are approved via this process will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that there have been no substantial changes in how students are taught or assessed. This information will be reviewed by the UoG Immigration Compliance Manager.
- 5.7 The UoG Compliance team will also monitor the completion rates of students who have used these qualifications for admission. If concerns arise where the course completion rate falls below expected norms, then the issue will be discussed between the Compliance, International Recruitment and Admissions teams, and (if required) admission using this qualification will no longer be permitted. Over time, with a larger data set, it is expected that these reports will become an increasingly accurate reflection of the qualification's suitability for assessing English.
- 5.8 The validity period of each qualification accepted is assessed by the Immigration Compliance Team on the basis of information from the awarding body of the qualification. Generally, if the qualification obtained is an assessment of a student's English language level on a given day then this will be valid for two years (in line with IELTS validity periods). If the qualification recognises a standard of English achieved in an exam after a course of preparation, then the qualification will be valid for three years (for example, City and Guilds ESOL).
- 5.9 Students whose alternative English language qualification has expired (exceeded the validity period) may be given the opportunity to be assessed via a UoG Internal English Language Assessment with a member of INTO UoG English language teaching staff. This assessment will look at all four components of the student's English language ability and will look to confirm that the student's ability hasn't worsened to below the level previously obtained. A record of the student's ability in each component of the assessment will be kept on file. The assessment will test the student with an expected IELTS and CEFR band equivalence. Students failing to evidence the required level of English will be required to provide a new IELTS test result or alternative qualification.
- 5.10 The University may offer testing of individual components in instances where the students can provide valid evidence that other components have already been tested and meet the course requirements.
- 5.11 Where a student is 0.5 of one component score below the entry requirements for the course (and where all other components are at or above the entry requirement), a UoG Internal English Language Assessment may be used to reassess the student.

5.12 A UoG Internal English Language Assessment will not be offered to reassess a student at a higher level of English within two months of failing to reach the required level of English when taking a SELT. The UKVI consider SELT tests to be the 'gold standard' of English language testing, and so should be considered as authoritative for this period. After two months, it may be possible to justify that the student's English language proficiency has improved.

6. Accepted Alternative English Language Qualifications

IELTS Academic Test (non-UKVI)

Course Level	Bachelor 'studies route' degree courses* (Level 4 & 5 entry)	Most bachelor degree courses (Level 4, 5 & 6 entry and 'studies route' Level 6 entry)	BSc Nursing Adult/Mental Health and Paramedic Science	BSc Journalism & Sports Journalism
Bachelor Degree Courses	IELTS 5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any band	IELTS 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any band	IELTS 7.0 overall with no less than 7.0 in any component	IELTS 7.0 overall with no less than 7.5 in writing and no less than 7.0 in any other component

Course Level	Postgraduate courses	Postgraduate Research courses
Postgraduate Courses	IELTS 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any component	IELTS 6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in writing and no less than 5.5 in any other component

Qualification/Test	Examination Board	Validity Period	Grade/Score for IELTS 5.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	UoG Internal English Language Assessment
GCSE	All UK examination Boards	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) 0500 & 0522 (English 1st language)	Cambridge International Examinations	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
A Level English Language	All UK examination Boards	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
A Levels (minimum x2)	All UK examination Boards	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	Yes

Qualification/Test	Examination Board	Validity Period	Grade/Score for IELTS 5.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	UoG Internal English Language Assessment
All India Senior School Certificate Examination/ Delhi Senior School Certificate Examination	Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)	10 years before course start date	33%	33%	33%	33%	No
O Level English Language 1115, 1119, 1120, 1123, 1125, 1126, 1127	All UK examination Boards	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
International Baccalaureate	International Baccalaureate	10 years before course start date	Grade 5	Grade 5	Grade 5	Grade 5	No
Bellerby's Academic English Skills (AES)	Bellerby's College	10 years before course start date	Pass of 50%	Pass of 50%	Pass of 50%	Pass of 50%	No
BGCSE (Botswana)	Botswana Examinations council	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
Cambridge Advanced English (CAE) CAE Pre-2015 CAE Post-2015	Cambridge English Language Assessment	10 years before course start date	C 162	C 169	C 176	B 185	No
Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE) CPE Pre-2015 CPE Post-2015	Cambridge English Language Assessment	10 years before course start date	C 32	C 37	C 42	C 49	No
Cambridge First Certificate in English	Cambridge English Language Assessment	3 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
Secondary Education Certificate English (Caribbean)	Caribbean Examinations Council	10 years before course start date	Pre 1998: 2 Post 1998: 3	2 3	2 3	2 3	No

Qualification/Test	Examination Board	Validity Period	Grade/Score for IELTS 5.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	UoG Internal English Language Assessment
Cameroon General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level	Cameroon General Certificate of Education Board	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
Canadian High School Diploma Grade 11/ Grade 12 (Anglophone schools)	Ministry of Education	10 years before course start date	60%	60%	60%	60%	No
City and Guilds ESOL Skills for Life Level 2	Cambridge English Language Assessment	10 years before course start date	'Pass' required in each subskill. For Speaking & Listening: 'Borderline' required	Pass	Pass	Pass	No
EACE (East African Certificate of Education)	East African Examination Council	10 years before course start date	Grade 6	Grade 6	Grade 6	Grade 6	No
HKALE (Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination - Advanced Level) (awarded up to and incl. 2013)	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority	10 years before course start date	Grade D	Grade C	Grade C	Grade B	No
HKCEE (Hong Kong Certificate of Education)	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority	10 years before course start date	Pre 2007: D Post 2007: 2	C 3	C 3	B 3	No
HKDSE (Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education)	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority	10 years before course start date	HKDSE English (Core) Level 4 overall (no less than Level 4 in any sub-section)	HKDSE English (Core) Level 4 overall (no less than Level 4 in any sub-section)	HKDSE English (Core) Level 5 overall (no less than Level 4 in any sub-section)	HKDSE English (Core) Level 5* overall (no less than Level 4 in any sub-section)	No
Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) / Standard 12 (India)	A recognised Board of Higher Secondary Education	10 years before course start date	65%	65%	65%	75%	No
Indian School Certificate (Class-XII)	Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE)	10 years before course start date	40%	40%	40%	40%	No

Qualification/Test	Examination Board	Validity Period	Grade/Score for IELTS 5.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	UoG Internal English Language Assessment
INTO UoG Pre-session English Test	INTO UoG	3 years before course start date	5.5 (B2) equivalent	6.0 Equivalent	6.5 Equivalent	7.0 Equivalent	No
IELA (INTO English Language Assessment)	Cambridge English	3 years before course start date	5.5 (B2) equivalent	IELA 6.0 equivalent	IELA 6.5 equivalent	IELA 7.0 equivalent	No
UoG Internal English Language Assessment	INTO UoG	2 Years	5.5 (B2) equivalent	6.0 Equivalent	6.5 Equivalent	7.0 Equivalent	No
KCSE (Kenya)	East African Examination Council	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
Malaysian SPM English (1119 / O level paper only)	Malaysian Examinations Syndicate	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	C	No
Malaysia University English Test (MUET)	Malaysian Examination Council	10 years before course start date	Grade 3 140-179	Grade 4 180-219	Grade 4 180-219	Grade 5 220-259	No
NECO	West African Exams Council	10 years before course start date	C	C	C	B	No
Pearson PTE Academic	Pearson	2 years before course start date	51	56	61	67	No
South African National Senior Certificate (NSC)	UMALUSI Council	10 years before course start date	Standard grade C Higher grade E	No			
TOEFL IBT	ETS	2 years before course start date	Reading - 18 Writing -17 Listening – 17 Speaking - 20 Total - 72	Reading - 20 Writing -19 Listening – 19 Speaking - 22 Total - 80	Reading - 22 Writing -24 Listening – 21 Speaking - 23 Total - 88	Reading - 24 Writing -24 Listening - 22 Speaking - 25 Total - 95	No
UCE (Uganda)	Uganda National Examinations Board	10 years before course start date	Grades 6	Grades 6	Grades 5	Grade 3	No
US High School Grade 11	High School Grades	10 years before course start date	65%	65%	65%	65%	No
WAEC	West African Exams Council	10 years before course start date	C6 in English	C6 in English	C6 in English	C4 in English	No

Qualification/Test	Examination Board	Validity Period	Grade/Score for IELTS 5.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	UoG Internal English Language Assessment
Zambian General Certificate of Education	Examinations Council of Zambia	10 years before course start date	Grade C	Grade C	Grade C	Grade C	No
Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education O Level	Zimbabwe School Examinations Council	10 years before course start date	Grade C	Grade C	Grade C	Grade B	No

7. Additional Information on Alternative Qualifications and Assessments

UKVI IELTS (Academic) – SELT (IELTS SELT Consortium)

The UKVI IELTS (Academic) test is a secure English language test approved by the UK government. This test assesses all four components of the student's English language ability individually, and is considered to be a secure and rigorous assessment of the student's English language level. The validity period of this qualification is two years. Website: <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/ielts-ukvi>

Integrated Skills in English (ISE) – SELT (Trinity College London)

The Trinity College Integrated Skills in English (ISE) test is a secure English language test approved by the UK government. This test assesses all four components of the student's English language ability individually, and is considered to be a secure and rigorous assessment of the student's English language level. The validity period for this qualification is two years. Website: <http://www.trinitycollege.com/site/?id=3192>

IELTS Academic Test (non-UKVI)

The standard (non-UKVI) IELTS (Academic) test is the world's most popular English language proficiency test. This test assesses all four components of the student's English language ability individually, and is considered to be a secure and rigorous assessment of the student's English language level. IELTS is jointly managed by British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. Examiners are fully qualified English language specialists certified by Cambridge ESOL, and results are benchmarked worldwide. Website: <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/choose-ielts/what-ielts>

GCSE English

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is a (usually two-year long) internationally recognised qualification awarded in a specified subject taken by students in England. The course entails a mixture of coursework and final examinations. The GCSE English Higher Tier qualification (graded A-C) is equivalent to RQF level 2. The RQF scale broadly corresponds to the levels of the CEFR, so some comparison between the levels of exams is possible. RQF2 English is regarded by [Cambridge English language assessment](#) to be equal to CEFR C1. Students achieving GCSE English grade C or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level. This is the same qualification which UK nationals take to demonstrate their English level for university admission.

As of June 2014, Speaking and Listening will [no longer be counted towards the final GCSE English grade](#). Instead it will be recorded separately on certificates as an endorsement to the qualification (graded 5-1, with 5 being the highest grade).

GCE O Level English

The [GCE O Level](#) is a subject-based qualification conferred as part of the General Certificate of Education. GCE O Level English is an assessment based qualification. Students achieving grade C or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

IGCSE English as a First or Second Language (with Supplementary Certifying Statement)

[The IGCSE](#) has an internationally recognised standard, is based on the GCE O Level, and is recognised as being equivalent to British GCSE and to GCE O levels. Students achieving IGCSE grade C or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level. Cambridge International Examinations state that their IGCSE and O Level are equivalent, grade for grade.

International Baccalaureate, First or Second Language, English Higher or Standard Level

The [International Baccalaureate](#) is a rigorous academic qualification and students are required to study a broad range of subjects to a high level including English. The International Baccalaureate qualification is recognised and respected by the world's leading universities and students with this qualification are suitably prepared to move on to higher education study at university level.

Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (BGCSE)

The Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (grades A-C) is issued by [the Botswana Examinations Council](#), and is considered comparable to GCSE grades A-C by both NARIC and [UCAS](#). Students achieving BGCSE English grade C or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

Cambridge Advanced English (CAE)

The [Cambridge Advanced English \(CAE\)](#) qualification is an internationally recognised qualification which grades students based on the CEFR scale. Passing the CAE is considered to be equivalent of up to CEFR C1. The test results show each individual component score as well as an overall score, similar to IELTS. Students achieving over CEFR B2 and meeting the component score requirements of the course will be considered for entry to UoG. Students achieving 160 are considered to be at CEFR B2.

Cambridge English Proficiency (CPE)

The [Cambridge English Proficiency \(CPE\)](#) qualification is an internationally recognised qualification which grades students based on the CEFR scale. Passing the CPE is considered to be equivalent of up to CEFR C2. The test results show each individual component score as well as an overall score, similar to IELTS. Students achieving over CEFR B2 and meeting the component score requirements of the course will be considered for entry to UoG. Students achieving a grade A-C are considered to be at CEFR C2.

Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate English

The [Caribbean Examinations Council](#) Secondary Education Certificate is awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council, headquarters in Barbados. The Caribbean Examinations Council is an examining body that provides educational certifications in 16 English speaking Commonwealth Caribbean Countries and Territories. The CXCSEC is considered comparable to GCSE grades A-C by NARIC. Students achieving CXCSEC English grade 3 or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

Cameroon General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

The [Cameroon General Certificate of Education](#) Ordinary Level is awarded by the Cameroon General Certificate of Education Board. The General Certificate of Education (GCE) is the qualifying exam in the Anglophone part of Cameroon where the schooling system is based on the British model. The Cameroon General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (grades A-C) is considered comparable to GCSE grades A-C by NARIC. Students achieving grade C or above in English are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

Canadian High School Diploma Grade 11/ Grade 12 (Anglophone schools)

English is one of the official languages in Canada.

The University considers that students who achieve a minimum of 60% in Grade 11 English or Grade 12 English as part of their high school diploma qualification, within the Anglophone system of schools, have the necessary level of English to

study at degree level. The qualifications offered by each province include reading, writing, speaking and listening components. More information on the curricula by province can be found through the [Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials](#). In Francophone schools English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English language GCSE studied in the UK.

City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in ESOL

City & Guilds decided not to renew its license with the UKVI to be a Secure English Language Test provider. This will come into effect on 6 April 2015. However, students previously accepted using this qualification are progressing on their course as expected and without incident. The [course syllabus](#) confirms all four components of English language are assessed.

EACE (East African Certificate of Education)

[The EACE](#) is considered to be equivalent to GCSE grades A-C by NARIC. Students achieving grade C6 or above in English are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

HKCEE (Hong Kong Certificate of Education)

The [Hong Kong Certificate of Education](#) was a standardised examination between 1974 and 2011 conducted by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA). The examination has been discontinued in 2012 and its roles are now being replaced by the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education as part of educational reforms in Hong Kong. The HKCEE is considered to be equivalent to GCSEs by NARIC.

HKDSE (Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education)

The [HKDSE \(Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education\)](#) is an academic qualification offered by Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA). The HKDSE examination is the only public examination in the new 3-3-4 education system introduced in Hong Kong secondary schools, as a replacement of the previous two years of Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) in which nearly all HK secondary students participated. The HKDSE is considered to be equivalent to GCSEs by NARIC.

India Standard XII

The India Standard XII is often taught in English/Hindi. Top schools all teach in English and generally students with the funding to study overseas will regard English as their first language. The India Standard XII is considered comparable to GCE AS level by NARIC

INTO University of Gloucestershire Pathway Transcript of Results (English)

Students progressing from INTO UoG courses to UoG courses via a pathway will have their English Language proficiency assessed, and be given a transcript of results confirming their English language level. The assessment assesses all four components of English language and gives a breakdown of each subskill as evidence that the required level of language has been reached before progression onto the undergraduate/postgraduate programme.

IELA (INTO English Language Assessment)

The INTO English Language Assessment (IELA) is an online test of a student's English language ability. It's designed and assessed by Cambridge English, who are part of the University of Cambridge and have a long history in English Language assessment. The test itself covers all four components of English language and are graded and an IELTS equivalent given.

UoG Internal English Language Assessment

The UoG Internal English Language Assessment is an assessment designed and conducted by the INTO UoG English tutors to reinforce the assessment of international student's qualifications. It assesses all four components of a student's English language level, and is conducted via a Skype interview amongst other means. This assessment confirms if a student is at CEFR B2, what the individual component scores are and whether they are at the required level of English to study on a

degree level programme at UoG. A transcript of this assessment is kept on the students file and progression of these students is monitored by the UoG Compliance team.

INTO UoG Pre-sessional English

INTO UoG Pre-sessional English programmes are a short intensive academic English course for students starting a degree programme at the University of Gloucestershire. This is a suitable course for students who already hold an offer for an undergraduate or postgraduate degree from the University of Gloucestershire, but need to improve their English before the course starts. Entry on to the course requires a SELT at CEFR B1, 5.0 minimum. The course assesses all four components of English language and gives a breakdown of each subskill as evidence that the required level of language has been reached before progression onto the undergraduate/postgraduate programme.

KCSE (Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education)

The [Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education](#) is a qualification awarded on completion of secondary education in Kenya. The Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education (grades A-C) is considered comparable to GCSE grades A-C by NARIC. Students achieving grade C or above in English are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

Malaysian SPM 1119 (Cambridge O level)

The [Malaysian SPM \(Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia\)](#) also known as the Malaysian Certificate of Education, is a national examination taken by all fifth-year secondary school students in Malaysia. It is set and examined by the Malaysian Examinations Syndicate. The University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate sets and marks the GCE O-Level English Language "1119" paper which is a compulsory subject for the Malaysian Certificate of Education. The English Language paper is the same as the English Language "1119" paper for GCE O-Level.

Malaysian University English Test (MUET)

The Malaysian University English Test (MUET) measures the English language proficiency of students planning to enter university. It is a criteria-based assessment and is divided up into four components: Listening, speaking, reading and writing. It is graded in six bands, with Band 6 being the highest and Band 1 being the lowest. Universities set the MUET entry point requirement at Band 3 for most degree programmes.

NECO (National Examinations Council)

[The National Examinations Council](#) is an examination body in Nigeria that conducts the senior secondary certificate examination in Nigeria. The NECO senior certificate examination is considered comparable to GCSEs by NARIC. Students achieving English grade 6 or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

Pearson PTE Academic

The [Pearson PTE Academic test](#), issued by Pearson, is an English language test which is mapped against the CEFR. From the 6th of April 2015, PTE Academic is no longer considered a SELT. Students achieving an overall score of 51 in all components are considered to be at CEFR B2.

South African National Senior Certificate qualification

The [South African Senior Certificate \(NSC\)](#) is a high school diploma and is the main school-leaving certificate in South Africa. THE NSC is considered comparable to GCSEs by NARIC. The university considers that students who achieve this qualification with a result of grade 5 or above have the necessary level of English to study at degree level.

Taught in the Medium of English Overseas (recognised institutions only)

Some students may be taught in the medium of English at an overseas institution. If this is the case and the qualification/institution can be verified by NARIC as being reputable and degree level equivalent, then these students may be considered to have reached CEFR B2. If there are doubts as to if this has been achieved, UoG Internal English language assessments will be used to verify the students English language level. This will be at the discretion of the International Recruitment, Admissions and the Compliance teams. UoG Internal English language assessments will always be used when the gap between the award being conferred and the start of the new course is more than three years.

Students who are non-majority English speaking country nationals, but who have been taught in the medium of English at a majority English speaking country and successfully completed a qualification or module results showing the student has reached the equivalent of RQF5 minimum may be offered the opportunity to be assessed via a UoG Internal English language assessment, and will be required to achieve the minimum English entry requirements of the course.

TOEFL IBT

The TOEFL Internet-Based Test is assessed by ETS. The test is a standardized test to measure the English language ability of non-native speakers wishing to enrol in English-speaking universities. The test breaks down the overall score into individual components which are directly mapped to their IELTS equivalences. A total score of over 72, with no components dropping below the scores mentioned below, is considered to be at CEFR B2 or above in all components.

UCE (Ugandan Certificate of Education)

The Ugandan Certificate of Education is a lower secondary school level qualification. The grade does not break down each individual subskill, however, NARIC considers this qualification to be comparable to GCE O levels.

WAEC

The [West African Examinations Council \(WAEC\)](#) is an examination board that conducts the West African Senior School Certificate Examination. The council has contributed to education in Anglophonic countries of West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Gambia). NARIC recognises this qualification as being equivalent to GCSEs. Students achieving English grade 6 or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

Zambian General Certificate of Education

The Zambian General Certificate of Education is a qualification issued by the [Examinations Council of Zambia](#). NARIC recognises this qualification as being equivalent to GCSEs. Students achieving English grade C6 or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.

Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education O Level English

The Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education O level is a qualification awarded by the [Zimbabwe School Examinations Council](#). NARIC recognises this qualification as being equivalent to GCSEs. Students achieving English grade C6 or above are judged to be capable of studying at degree level.