



SENATE POLICY

Policy on Undergraduate English Language Proficiency Requirement

(Inception: 1963-1964 General Calendar (GnC))(Amended: 1968-1969 (GnC), 2003-2004 (Undergraduate Calendar), June 5, 2008, December 9, 2009, November 11, 2011, January 10, 2014, March 13, 2015, March 9, 2018, October 11, 2019, March 27, 2020 temporary/for COVID period, October 11, 2019, November 13, 2020)

A. Exemptions

The English Language Proficiency requirement may be waived for undergraduate applicants who have completed at least three consecutive years of full-time study in a recognized institution where the language of instruction is English, unless contradictory evidence comes to light. These studies must include satisfactory completion of English 12U (or equivalent), or at least two transferable semester courses in English. These studies must precede admission by not more than two years.

Applicants whose first language is not English may be required to provide satisfactory evidence that the language of instruction was in English; examples of acceptable evidence include an official letter from the teaching institution or statements from the institution’s official Calendar/Catalogue, as well as standardized test results such as TOEFL, IELTS, etc. Applicants who are uncertain regarding the status of their qualifications with respect to this policy should contact the Office of the Registrar for further information.

The English Language Proficiency Requirement will be waived for applicants educated in the following countries:

Table listing countries where the English Language Proficiency Requirement will be waived, including Anguilla, Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, England, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guam, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malta, Mauritius, Montserrat, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Singapore, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uganda, United States of America, Wales, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Applicants educated in the following countries will be exempt from the English Language Proficiency requirement if they attended an exempted university. Where an exemption is not granted, these applicants will be required to demonstrate English language proficiency in accordance with the English Language Proficiency Requirement (section B):

Table listing countries where applicants will be exempt from the English Language Proficiency requirement if they attended an exempted university, including Bangladesh, Barbuda, Botswana, Bulgaria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.

The Office of the Registrar will maintain a complete list of ELP exempt universities from the countries listed above. (www.uwindsor.ca/registrar/english-language-proficiency-exempt-universities)

An exception may be granted to any student who can show proof of instruction in English. Exceptions may be denied, or may be revoked, if contradictory evidence exists, for example, low TOEFL scores, low grades on an English-based course, or significant communication difficulties. Individual circumstances will be reviewed by the Registrar (or designate) whose decision shall be final. Special arrangements will be made for students attending the University under an approved exchange program.

The Registrar (or designate) will modify the list of ELP exempt countries and universities according to existing standards and practices and report to Senate annually on any and all changes to this list.

B. Undergraduate English Language Proficiency Requirement

All applicants, not covered by section A, must demonstrate proficiency in English to be considered for admission.

This can be demonstrated in the following ways:

- 1) A minimum score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS); or
- 2) A minimum score of 60 on the Carleton University's Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL); or
- 3) A minimum score of 60 on the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE); or
- 4) A minimum overall score of 176 on the Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) or the Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE); or
- 5) Successful completion of the University of Windsor's English Language Improvement Program (ELIP)* (level III) with a minimum final grade of 75%; or
- 6) A minimum score of 85 on the English Proficiency Test administered by the English Language Institute of the University of Michigan (MELAB); or
- 7) A minimum score of 83 with an writing score of 20 on the Internet-based Test (IBT) of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Prospective students completing the Paper-Delivered Test (PDT) of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (as offered from October 2017) will have their results assessed on an individual basis; or
- 8) A minimum score of 120 on the current Duolingo English Test (DET); or
- 9) Receive a minimum of five semester transfer credits based on work completed at a recognized English-speaking University. (Normally, students must have at least one term of full-time study.); or
- 10) Receive a minimum of one year of transfer credit based on work completed at a non-university post-secondary institution with an overall transfer average of B; or
- 11) Have completed all secondary or post-secondary education in English speaking countries such as the United Kingdom, West Indies and other countries as specified by the Office of the Registrar; or
- 12) Can demonstrate that they have completed three years of full-time secondary or post-secondary study in a school where the language of instruction is English (*e.g.*, in a British, Canadian, American or Australian Curriculum or an international diploma like the International Baccalaureate) and can demonstrate English proficiency. In some cases an English proficiency test may still be required; or
- 13) Successful completion of an English Language Training Program offered by a publicly-assisted Canadian University, which if fulfilled would be deemed as meeting the Undergraduate English Language Proficiency requirements for that institution; or
- 14) Successful completion of an English Language Training Program offered by a private Canadian Language Training provider, who is Languages Canada accredited and deemed by the Registrar as having established pathways to undergraduate programs offered by peer institutions;
- 15) Applicants who do not satisfy the above requirements and wish exemption must provide the Office of the Registrar with a letter detailing the reasons for their appeal and include a letter of recommendation from their Secondary School principal or designate. The Registrar (or designate) will assess the request for exemption of this requirement.

Note: The University reserves the right to require applicants with an English Language Proficiency score disparate from their academic English prerequisite achievement to present further evidence of proficiency.

*For more information on the University of Windsor's 12-week intensive English language training program, go to

