**English language requirements**

Our English language entry requirements are set at a level to ensure all students benefit fully from their studies and can communicate effectively with academic staff and students.

To study at the Academy, you must be able to demonstrate an excellent level of spoken and written English. This document gives guidance on the qualifications we accept as an entry requirement onto our undergraduate diploma courses.

If you are not a national of one of the UKVI list of majority English-speaking countries, you must show evidence of a minimum level of English language proficiency. You can prove this in the following ways:

### *Approved English language qualifications*

The qualifications and grades we accept are listed below. Your qualification must have been taken no more than two years before your course start date, and have been taken at a UKVI-approved centre. If you have taken an in-country qualification or A level, GCSE or IB English, this may not be required. This is assessed on an individual basis for short-term study visa students.

|  | **IELTS** | **PTE Academic** | **CAE/CPE** | **TOEFL iBT** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Undergraduate Diplomas** | 5.5 overall (with a minimum of 5.5 in each component) | 48 overall with 48 in each subtest |   | 72 overall (with a minimum of 18 in R; 17 in W&L; 20 in S) |
| **Postgraduate Diplomas** | 5.5 overall (with a minimum of 5.5 in each component) |  48 overall with 48 in each subtest |   |  72 overall (with a minimum of 18 in R; 17 in W&L; 20 in S) |
| **Key: R = reading; W = writing; S = speaking; L = listening** |
| **You cannot combine scores from more than one TOEFL test and you must arrange for TOEFL to forward a copy of your results direct to the Academy.** |

#### For more information

* [International English Language Testing System (IELTS)](https://www.ielts.org/)
* [Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)](http://pearsonpte.com/)
* [Cambridge English: Advanced & Proficiency (CAE/CPE)](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/)
* [Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)](https://www.ets.org/toefl)
* *A level, GCSE and IB qualifications*

If you are studying on a recognised qualification in English at an international school and do not require a visa to study in the UK, we will consider the following qualifications:

| **Qualification** | **Level required** |
| --- | --- |
| International Baccalaureate | English A Literature, SL grade 5 or HL grade 4English A Language & Literature, SL grade 5 or HL grade 4English Language A1, SL grade 5 or HL grade 4English Language A2, SL grade 6 or HL grade 5English Language B, SL grade 6 or HL grade 5English Literature & Performance SL grade 6 |
| IGCSE English as a Second Language | Grade B or above |
| IGCSE English First Language | Grade C or above |
| GCE Advanced Level English Language | Grade C or above |
| Cambridge O Level English Language | Grade C or above when taking CIE A Levels |
| Cambridge English: Advanced and Proficiency | 176 (with a minimum of 169 in R&W; 162 in S&L) |
| OxfordAQA International GCSE English Language | Grade 4 or above |

* Students with other qualifications

If you hold at least a level 3 or equivalent qualification in a majority English speaking country or a qualification taught entirely in the medium of English.

If you are a national of one of the countries below, you do not need to prove your English language ability for study visa purposes. You are also exempt if you have an academic qualification equivalent to a UK Bachelor's degree from one of these countries. However, you must still meet our English language requirements.

| **UKVI English-speaking countries** |  |
| --- | --- |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Guyana |
| Australia | Jamaica |
| The Bahamas | New Zealand |
| Barbados | St Kitts and Nevis |
| Belize | St Lucia |
| Canada | St Vincent and the Grenadines |
| Dominica | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Grenada | USA |

#### **In-country qualifications**

You may use one of the following English language qualifications in your visa application as proof of meeting the Level B2 requirement. This does not guarantee you will be exempt from taking a SELT. The Academy will conduct an assessment of your application and determine if an offer can be made.

| **Country** | **Qualification** | **Minimum grade requirements** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Botswana | Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) | C |
| Brunei | Brunei-Cambridge General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (B-C GCE O Level) | C |
| Cameroon | GCE O Level | C |
| Ghana | WAEC or WASSCE | C6 |
| Hong Kong | Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination Use of English | C |
|   | Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education, Core English | 4 (with 4 in each component) |
| India | Standard XII – if English medium school | 70% |
|   | Standard XII – if non English medium school | 80% |
| Kenya | Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) | C |
| Malawi | Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) | C |
| Malaysia | Cambridge English Language syllabus 1119 (SPM) | C |
| Mauritius | SC (Cambridge Overseas Secondary Certificate) | C |
| Nigeria | Senior School Certificate (NECO) or WAEC/WASSCE | C6 |
| Norway | Vitnemål for Videregående Opplæring (ENG1002) | 4  |
| Singapore | Singapore O Level English | C |
| South Africa | National Senior Certificate | 5 |
| Tanzania | Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) | C |
| Uganda | Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) | 6 |
| West Africa | West African Examination Council Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) | C6 |
| West Indies / Caribbean | Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) | Grade 1 |
|   | Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) | C |
|   | Bermuda Secondary School Certificate (BSSC) | C |
| Zambia | Zambia School Certificate | 6 |
| Zimbabwe | Cambridge School Certificate / Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) / O Level / ZGCE | C |
| Worldwide | University of Cambridge IGCSE First Language English | C |
|   | University of Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language | B |
|   | GCSE/O Level English language | C |
|   | AP (in American High School Diploma system) – English | 3 |
|   | IB – English higher A1/A2/B | 4/5/5 |
|   |   | 5/6/6 |
|   | IB – English standard | 5 |

### ***Applicants who require a short-term study visa***

If you require a short-term study visa to study in the UK, you must also meet the English language requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). For degree-level entry, you must achieve at least Level B2 of [CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages) in all four language components. Full details are available on the [UKVI website](https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/knowledge-of-english).

If you do not hold one of our listed English language qualifications, then a secure English language test (SELT) may be required. A SELT is a language qualification approved by UKVI for visa purposes.

If you have taken a degree taught entirely in the medium of English, an [in-country qualification](https://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements.html#incountry), or [A Level, GCSE or IB English](https://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements.html#alevel), we can assess your language proficiency for degree-level entry or above. We use our own entry requirements as above, which in most cases are higher than the B2 Level set by UKVI.

## ***UK, EU and non-visa students***

All students need an appropriate score in an approved English language examination. For UK students, this is usually a grade C/4 or above in GCSE English language or equivalent.

For EU and non-visa students, we accept the following qualifications:

| **Qualification** | **Level required** |
| --- | --- |
| **European Baccalaureate (EB)** | 7.0 in written English (first language); 7.5 (if second language); 8.0 (if third language) |
| **International Baccalaureate (IB)** | English A or B standard level 5; English A or B higher level 4; English ab initio standard level 6 |
| **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** | 6.5 overall (with a minimum of 6 in R&W; 5.5 in S&L) |
| **Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)** | 62 overall with 60 in each subtest |
| **Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)** | 176 overall (with a minimum 169 in R&W; 162 in S&L) |
| **Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)** | 176 overall (with a minimum 169 in R&W; 162 in S&L) |
| **Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)** | 90 overall (with a minimum of 22 in R; 21 in W; 20 in S; 17 in L) |
| **IGCSE First Language English** | Grade C or above |
| **IGCSE English as a Second Language** | Grade B or above |
| **Key: R = reading; W = writing; S = speaking; L = listening** |

These requirements are for guidance only. All applications are assessed individually and entry requirements can vary.

### ***English exam preparation courses***

### If you do not yet meet the English language requirements, English exam preparation courses are available to prepare international students for study at the Academy. These develop your skills in academic reading, writing and critical thinking, listening to lectures, speaking in seminars and delivering presentations.