

Higher Degree Research Admissions Policy

Schedule 1: English Language Admission Requirements for Higher Degree Research Courses

Purpose

This Schedule sets out English Language requirements for applicants to higher degree research awards.

Schedule

English proficiency descriptors and standards

Macquarie University requires applicants to provide evidence that their English language proficiency is appropriate for the linguistic demands of their intended course of study and research.

The descriptors below outline the levels of English proficiency required for entry to higher degree research courses, with reference to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

| Level of English | Description of English Proficiency Standard | Indicative CEFR Level |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| Minimum proficiency standards for entry to Macquarie University Higher Degree Research courses | | |
| Competent | Students have effective command of English, using fairly complex language in general situations and some complex language in their own field. They can use fluent and nuanced expression to engage with familiar topics and social communication, though some inaccuracies, inappropriacies, and misunderstandings may still be evident. They can effectively structure and communicate arguments, clearly articulate detailed information, and summarise or report on previous interactions. They can provide and transmit solutions to sometimes complex problems, demonstrating understanding of knowledge, with depth in some areas. | B2+ |
| Proficient | Students have fully operational command of English. Communication is fluent and generally spontaneous. They can use language flexibly for social and professional purposes, with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies, or misunderstandings. They can engage with complex, lengthy texts on familiar and unfamiliar topics, understanding nuanced shades of meaning. They convey ideas clearly and precisely, cohesively and coherently organising information using various formats for various purposes. | C1 |
| Superior | Students have fully operational command of English, demonstrating fluency and strong familiarity with natural expression. Any misunderstandings, inaccuracies, or inappropriacies are generally restricted to unfamiliar situations or contexts. They can engage with complex, lengthy texts on familiar and unfamiliar topics, locating directly stated information in a range of text types and identifying textual attitudes and opinions. They convey ideas clearly and precisely, cohesively and coherently organising information using various formats for various purposes. They can provide and transmit solutions to sometimes complex problems, demonstrating understanding of knowledge, with depth in some areas. | Mid-C1 |

Accepted evidence of English language proficiency

Applicants may demonstrate their level of English proficiency through one of the following methods accepted by the University:

- a. an approved English language proficiency test
- b. a recognized qualification with English as the language of instruction
- c. a Macquarie University College English Language Program (ELP)
- d. Other approved evidence deemed to satisfy minimum standards

Section 1: Approved English language tests

The following section outlines English language proficiency tests accepted by Macquarie University and the minimum test scores required to satisfy English entry standards to various courses.

The following English language tests are recognised by the University:

| Acronym | Full Name |
|----------------|--|
| IELTS Academic | International English Language Testing System: Academic version |
| TOEFL iBT | Test of English as a Foreign Language: Internet-based Test |
| PTE Academic | Pearson Test of English Academic |
| C1A | Cambridge English C1 Advanced (previously CAE or Cambridge English: Advanced) |
| C2P | Cambridge English C2 Proficiency (previously CPE or Cambridge English: Proficiency) |

Test validity period

Unless otherwise specified, all English language test scores must be less than two years old at the date of application for a higher degree research course at the University.

Minimum test scores

To meet English proficiency requirements for a course, the following minimum scores must be achieved on the relevant test.

| Academic IELTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|--|
| Level of English | Overall | Reading | Writing | Listening | Speaking | For admission to |
| Competent English | 6.5 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | Most higher degree research courses |
| Proficient English | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | Higher degree research courses in Macquarie Law School |
| | 7.0 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.5 | Higher degree research courses in English Literature |

| TOEFL iBT | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|--|
| Level of English | Overall | Reading | Writing | Listening | Speaking | For admission to |
| Competent English | 83 | 13 | 21 | 12 | 18 | Most higher degree research courses |
| Proficient English | 94 | 19 | 24 | 20 | 20 | Higher degree research courses in Macquarie Law School |
| | 94 | 19 | 27 | 20 | 20 | Higher degree research courses in English Literature |

| PTE Academic | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|--|
| Level of English | Overall | Reading | Writing | Listening | Speaking | For admission to |
| Competent English | 58 | 52 | 52 | 52 | 52 | Most higher degree research courses |
| Proficient English | 66 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | Higher degree research courses in Macquarie Law School |
| | 66 | 58 | 66 | 58 | 58 | Higher degree research courses in English Literature |

| Cambridge English (C1A or C2P) | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|--|
| Level of English | Overall | Reading | Writing | Listening | Speaking | For admission to |
| Competent English | 180 | 169 | 169 | 169 | 169 | Most higher degree research courses |
| Proficient English | 185 | 176 | 176 | 176 | 176 | Higher degree research courses in Macquarie Law School |
| | 185 | 176 | 185 | 176 | 176 | Higher degree research courses in English Literature |

Section 2: Recognised study with English as the Language of Instruction

The University may accept as meeting English proficiency requirements:

- a. A minimum of five (5) years' study in one or more of the following countries:
 - i. Australia
 - ii. Canada
 - iii. New Zealand
 - iv. South Africa
 - v. Republic of Ireland
 - vi. United Kingdom
 - vii. United States of America
- b. Successful completion of a Bachelor's Degree in Australia (Australian Qualifications Framework AQF7) or higher, within two year of submitting your application.

Section 3: Macquarie University College English Language Programs (ELP)

Applicants who do not meet English Language requirements, but who otherwise meet academic entry requirements for a course, may be issued a packaged offer of study that includes an English Language Program (ELP) at the Macquarie University College. These programs enable students to meet English entry requirements to most courses at Macquarie University.

| Provider & Course | Level of English | Program & requirement | For admission to |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Macquarie University College English Language Programs | Competent English | Direct Entry Program - Minimum grade of Pass in the Overall Score and Pass in each skill component | Most higher degree research courses |

Section 4: Other approved evidence deemed to satisfy minimum standards

On a case-by-case basis, the University may accept other documentary evidence as meeting minimum English proficiency requirements up to the level of Competent English for admission to higher degree research courses.

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Competent English | A reference letter on official letterhead confirming a minimum of three (3) year working experience or equivalent in an approved English speaking country from their employer or equivalent, which states their position title, the duties they undertook and an idea of what level of English was spoken and how English was used in terms of written or verbal communication, for the endorsement of the Associate Dean (RTP) of the Faculty and recommendation to the GRA. | Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and United States of America |
| | Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. | |

Status and Details

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| Status | Current |
| Effective Date | 31 May 2023 |
| Review Date | 31 May 2026 |
| Approval Authority | Academic Senate |
| Amendment History | |
| Approval Date | 30 May 2023 |
| Expiry Date | Not Applicable |
| Responsible Executive | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) |
| Responsible Officer | Operations Director, Graduate Research |
| Enquiries Contact | Operations Director, Graduate Research |