



SENATE POLICY

Policy on English Language Proficiency Requirement (Undergraduate and Graduate)

(Graduate policy – Inception: 1963-1964 General Calendar (GnC)) (Amended: 1968-1969 (GnC), 1997-1998 (Graduate Calendar) (GC), 2004-2006 (GC), January 10, 2014, March 27, 2020 temporary/for COVID period, November 13, 2020)

(Undergraduate policy – 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)

(Graduate/Undergraduate policy: February 11, 2022 (merged))

For applicants whose native language is not English, evidence of English proficiency must be provided. The following outlines the means by which an applicant can satisfy or be exempted from this requirement. 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.

A. Exemptions

The English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirement may* be waived for applicants who have completed:

- (a) at least three consecutive years of full-time study in a recognized secondary school (undergraduate) including the satisfactory conclusion of English 12U (or equivalent) within the past two years; or,
- (b) at least two consecutive years of full-time study in a post-secondary institution where the primary language of instruction is English within the past two years (undergraduate); or,
- (c) an undergraduate or graduate degree where at least two consecutive years of full-time study was instructed primarily in English within the past two years (graduate) in an English language speaking countries (see list of exempt countries for graduate applicants - <https://www.uwindsor.ca/graduate-studies/346/admission-requirements>).

*Applicants seeking any of these exemptions will be required to provide satisfactory evidence that the primary language of instruction was in English.

The ELP requirement may be waived for applicants educated in countries whose accredited education system is based in English. In specific cases, undergraduate applicants educated at specifically confirmed English-based universities in some countries will be exempt from the ELP requirement. The Office of the Registrar maintains a complete list of ELP exempt English speaking countries and specific exempt immersive English instruction universities is maintained on the International Students admissions webpage (<https://future.uwindsor.ca/international-students>).

An exception may be granted to an applicant who can demonstrate immersed professional employment requiring proficient communication in a solely English language environment for at least 3 years.

Exceptions may be denied, or may be revoked, if contradictory evidence exists, including but not limited to low standardized ELP test scores, low grades in an English-based course, or significant communication difficulties.

Special arrangements will be made for students attending the University under an approved international exchange program.

Applicants who do not satisfy any of the above exemptions and wish to be considered on an exception basis must provide the Office of the Registrar with a letter detailing the reasons for their appeal and include

alternative evidence (e.g., a letter of recommendation from previous education and/or employment). These individual circumstances will be reviewed by the Registrar or designate (undergraduate), or the Dean of Graduate Studies (graduate), whose decision shall be final. Where an exemption is not granted, these applicants will be required to demonstrate ELP in accordance by presenting appropriate evidence (section B).

B. Evidence of English Language Proficiency

All applicants whose native language is not English and who are ineligible for an exemption, must demonstrate proficiency in English to be considered for admission. A list of acceptable forms of evidenced to demonstrate ELP is provided below. These scores represent the minimum institutional requirement, where specific undergraduate and graduate programs may require a higher overall score or specific component scores beyond the minimum stated. Specific requirements can be found in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars and on the program specific admission requirement webpages.

- 1) A minimum score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – Academic or IELTS Online.
- 2) A minimum score of 83 with a writing score of 20 on the Internet-based Test (IBT®) of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or TOEFL iBT® Home Edition online test. Prospective students completing the Paper-Delivered Test (PDT) TOEFL (as offered from October 2017) will have their results assessed on an individual basis.
- 3) A minimum score of 115 for undergraduate applicants and a minimum score of 120 for graduate applicants on the current Duolingo English Test (DET).
- 4) A minimum score of 60 for undergraduate applicants and a minimum score of 70 for graduate applicants on the Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) Assessment or CAEL At Home online assessment.
- 5) A minimum score of 60 for undergraduates and a minimum score of 65 for graduate applicants on the Pearson Test of English (PTE) – Academic or PTE Academic Online.
- 6) A minimum overall score of 176 on the Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) or the Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE); or
- 7) Successful completion of the University of Windsor's English Language Improvement Program (ELIP)* (level III) with a minimum final grade of 75%; or
- 8) Receive a minimum of five semester transfer credits based on work completed at a recognized English-speaking University in at least one term of full-time study (not applicable to graduate applicants); or
- 9) Receive a minimum of ten transfer credits based on work completed at an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) or equivalent post-secondary institution with an overall transfer admission average of B (not applicable to graduate applicants); or
- 10) Completion of the full International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma with a minimum score of 4 or better in an HL or SL English A: Literature **OR** HL or an SL English A: Language and Literature course; English B course is not acceptable (not applicable to graduate applicants); or
- 11) Be academically admissible under the British-based GCSE, IGCSE or GCE credentials and achieve a minimum final grade of B (6 in reformed qualifications) in an Ordinary (O) Level English Literature or English Language course **OR** a minimum final grade of 'C' in an Advanced (A) Level or Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level English Language, English Language and Literature, or English Literature course (not applicable to graduate applicants); or
- 12) Successful completion of an English Language Training Program offered by a publicly-assisted Canadian University, which if fulfilled would be deemed as meeting the ELP requirements for that institution; or
- 13) 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 programs offered by peer institutions.

Note: The University reserves the right to require applicants with an ELP 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 www.uwindsor.ca/celd/important-application-information.