

## English Language Requirements(Postgraduate Entry)

As part of the application process, you will need to demonstrate that your English language competence is at a level which will allow you to cope with the demands of your chosen programme. This is in order to ensure that you will be able to obtain full benefit from your studies.

### Programme Requirements

Cardiff University may ask for higher English language proficiency levels where these are necessary for the academic programme. Individual programme requirements can be checked on [Coursefinder](#).

### Majority English Speaking Countries

In addition to the UK, the following countries are recognised by UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration) as majority English speaking. If you are a national of any of these countries, or have a bachelor or higher degree from any of these countries, you may not need to further demonstrate your English Language proficiency:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada (Canadian nationals only)
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United States of America

### English Language Tests and Qualifications

Cardiff University accepts the following English language tests and qualifications:

Qualification	Minimum score
GCSE/'O' Level English Language (Pre 2017)	C
GCSE English Language (Wales)	C
GCSE English Language (England)	4
IGCSE (first language) English language	C
IGCSE (second language)	B
Cambridge Proficiency (CPE)	C (185 from January 2015)

Qualification	Minimum score
IELTS (Academic)	6.5
Cambridge Advanced (CAE)	C (176 from January 2015)
Pearson Test of English – Academic (PTE – A)	62
Trinity ISE III	Pass in all four components
International Baccalaureate Diploma	Language A HL5/SL 5
	Language B HL 5/SL 6
European Baccalaureate	75% overall (to include English as a first language at grade 6.5 or as a second language at grade 7.5)
French Baccalaureate (option International du Baccalaureat)	English Grade 10

\*Language A is a first Language qualification

## Tier 4 Visa Language Requirements

If you need a Tier 4 visa, and are taking an IELTS Academic test, you must obtain minimum sub-scores of 5.5 in each of the 4 skill areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening.

## Validity Period

All English Language tests and qualifications must be completed no more than 2 calendar years before the programme start date.

## Other Country Specific Qualifications

If you are not from a majority speaking English Language country, and require a tier 4 visa to study in the UK, we strongly recommend that you complete one of the above named English Language tests. However, in certain circumstances, Cardiff University accepts the following Country Specific qualifications as evidence of English Language proficiency:

Country	Qualification Titles(s) and Required Grades
Bangladesh	GCE O-Level (Cambridge or Edexcel), grade C or above
Botswana	Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (BGCSE) School Certificate grades 1-2
Ghana	WAEC or WASSCE (West African Senior School Certificate), grade C6 or above
Hong Kong	Higher Diploma HKDSE - grade 4 or above
India	ISC (Indian School Certificate, offered by CISCE - Council for Indian Schools Certificate Examination), Standard XII, 60% or above
	SSC or AISSC ( All India Senior School Certificate, offered by CBSE - Central Board of Secondary Education), Standard X II, 60% or above
	HSE (Higher Secondary Examination, offered by West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education, also known as West Bengal Board), Standard XII, 60% or above
Country	Qualification Titles(s) and Required Grades

Kenya	KCSE (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education), grade C or above
Malaysia	SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia), grades C or above
Mauritius	Cambridge Overseas GCE O Level School Certificate grade C or above
Nigeria	WAEC or WASSCE (West African Senior School Certificate Examination), grades C6 or above
Pakistan	GCE O-Level (Cambridge or Edexcel), grade C or above
Singapore	Singapore/ Cambridge GCE Ordinary level, grades C
South Africa	Senior Certificate (with or without Matriculation Endorsement), Standard Grade 4 or above
Sri Lanka	GCE O-Level (Cambridge or Edexcel), grade C or above
Uganda	Ugandan certificate of Education, grade C
Zimbabwe	Certificate of Education O Level (English), grade C or above

### Validity Period

All country specific qualifications must be completed no more than 3 calendar years before the programme start date.

### Other Qualifications Taught in English

An academic qualification taught solely in English may be used to satisfy the University's language competency requirement, where the qualification can be demonstrated to be at an equivalent or higher level than the standard programme requirements.

The National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (NARIC)

(<http://www.naric.org.uk/>) is the University's primary source of guidance regarding the language of tuition of a qualification. Further advice as to whether an awarding institution teaches solely in English is also available from the University's International Office ([international@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:international@cardiff.ac.uk)).

All qualifications must be completed no more than 3 academic years before the programme start date.

## International Foundation Programme

To apply for the International Foundation Programme, you must obtain either:

- IELTS for UK Visas and Immigration (SELT) with sub-scores of 4 in each of the skill areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening;
- Trinity (ISE) language test (taken in the UK only).

## Cardiff University English Language Programmes

For applicants who do not offer a suitable level of English language competence, the University offers a range of English language programmes, to prepare international applicants for study at the University and improve their English language competence.

### Pre-sessional English Language Programmes

An applicant who does not meet the English language requirement can be made an offer conditional upon successful completion of a pre-sessional programme in lieu of a further English language test, subject to satisfying the minimum requirements below:

Programme Entry requirement	Student's IELTS score on application to Pre-sessional	Which Pre-sessional course?
IELTS 6.5 with any sub-score	6.0 with all sub-scores at 4.0 or higher	8 week course
IELTS 7.0 with any sub-score	6.5 with all sub-scores 4.0 or higher	10-week course
IELTS 7.5 with any sub-score	Pre-sessional Programme not suitable. Required to re-take IELTS or other approved test.	

Further information on pre-sessional English language programmes can be found at <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/elt/presessional>.

### English for University Study Programme

The English for University Study programme is designed for students who want to improve their English language skills to the level needed for English-medium university education in the UK.

The programme has entry points in September (minimum entry IELTS 4.0), January (minimum entry IELTS 4.5) and April (minimum entry IELTS 5.5). Students are able to take a four-skill, summative Exit Test in December, March or May/June. Scores are aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Language and are accepted by the University in lieu of IELTS. Further information is available at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/elt/efus>.

**All programmes below degree level will require IELTS for UK Visas and Immigration (SELT) at the appropriate level for entry.**

### Using an international foundation programme as an academic qualification taught in English.

An international foundation programme will be accepted only where the International Foundation Programmes was undertaken in a majority English speaking country, and where the English language component of International Foundation Programmes had more than 40% minimum of the programme dedicated to English language and study skills, evidenced through a programme transcript.

IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) as proof of English language competence will be required for applicants studying all other International Foundation Programmes at other institutions.

## References

An employer's reference alone cannot usually be used to satisfy the University's language requirement. However, this may be considered in cases where you are currently employed in a professional capacity and you are applying to a distance learning programme, which will contribute to your continuing professional development.

You may also be able to use a reference if you have a qualification which we would normally accept as satisfying the University's language competency requirement, except that the validity period for the qualification has been recently exceeded. If you wish to use an employer's reference, please contact the [admissions team](#) prior to submitting your application form.

The employer's reference must be completed on the University's Employer English Language Referee Report Form available [here](#).

## CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions about English language entry requirements at Cardiff University, the following contacts can provide further advice and guidance:

		Telephone	Email
General Enquiries	Admissions Team	+44 (0)2920 879999	<a href="mailto:Admissions@cf.ac.uk">Admissions@cf.ac.uk</a>
Pre-sessional Programme English for University Study Programme	English Language Programmes Team	+44 (0)29 2087 6587	<a href="mailto:Elt@cardiff.ac.uk">Elt@cardiff.ac.uk</a>
Advice For International Students	International Office	+44 (0)29 20874432	<a href="mailto:international@cardiff.ac.uk">international@cardiff.ac.uk</a>
Advice on visa applications for applicants and students	International Student Support Team	+44 (0)29 2087 6009	<a href="mailto:iss@cardiff.ac.uk">iss@cardiff.ac.uk</a>