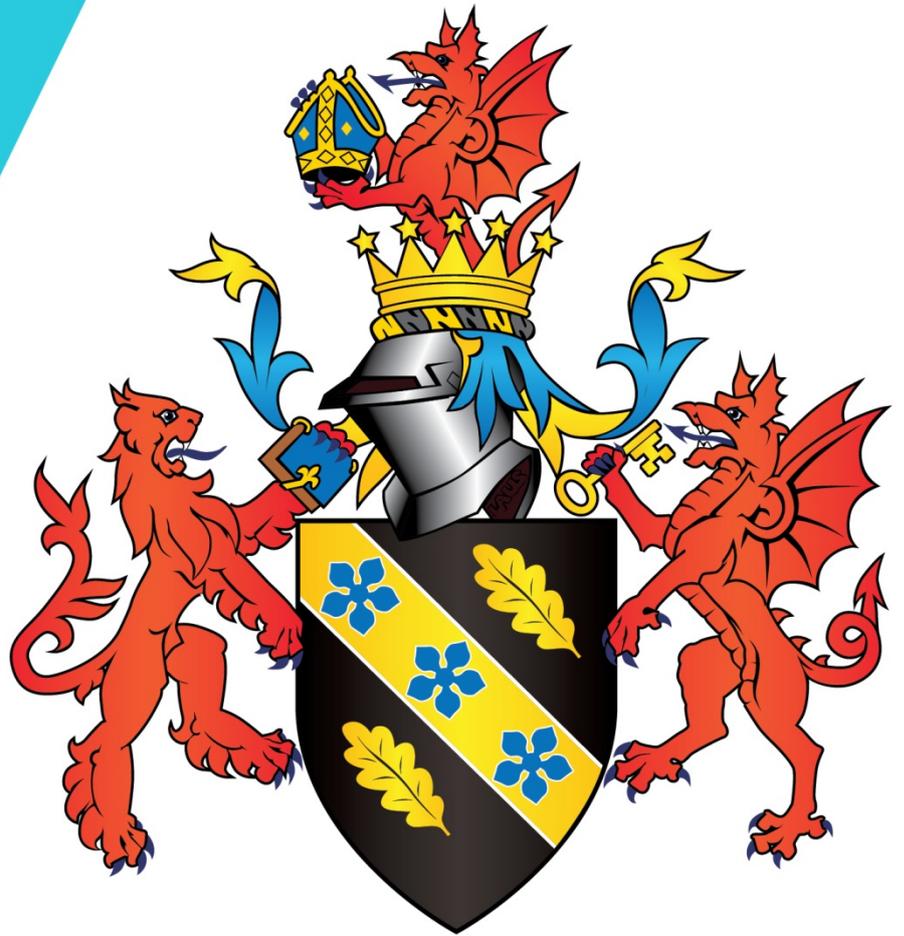




Prifysgol Cymru  
Y Drindod Dewi Sant  
University of Wales  
Trinity Saint David



# English Language Entry Requirements for Academic Study



University of Wales Trinity Saint David

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Academic Study

January (2021)

## 1. Introduction

This policy outlines the range of ways in which the English language entry requirements of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) may be satisfied by International Students studying in the UK and online for the purpose of academic study leading to an award of the University. In addition, candidates may also be required to satisfy any government-set English language requirements; for example, for study in the UK, candidates will be required to evidence that they meet the requirements of the UKVI.

## 2. Automatic qualification

Candidates may automatically satisfy the English language entry requirements of the University for academic study if they:

- i. Have successfully completed a recognised undergraduate or postgraduate qualification<sup>1</sup> at a recognised institution in the UK or a majority English Language speaking country (as listed in the UK immigration rules).
- ii. Have successfully completed within the last five years a recognised undergraduate or postgraduate qualification<sup>2</sup>, at a recognised institution through the medium of English other than in a majority English Language speaking country (as listed in the UK immigration rules) . Certificates, transcripts and/or other documents stating language of delivery and assessment may be required by the University prior to an offer being made.
- iii. Have successfully completed within the last five years a recognised qualification in the subject of English or, where approved by the University, qualifications with significant embedded English language (certificates and certain levels of attainment may be required).
- iv. Are considered to be native English speakers through citizenship of a majority English speaking country as detailed in the UK immigration rules:
  - Antigua and Barbuda
  - Australia
  - Bahamas
  - Barbados
  - Belize
  - Canada
  - Dominica
  - Grenada
  - Guyana
  - Ireland
  - Jamaica
  - Malta
  - New Zealand
  - St Kitts and Nevis
  - St Lucia
  - St Vincent and the Grenadines
  - Trinidad and Tobago
  - United Kingdom

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<sup>1</sup> Including CertHE, HNC, DipHE, HND, Foundation Degree, Bachelor Degree, Grad Cert / Dip, PGCert, PGDip, Master's Degree, Doctoral level qualification.

<sup>2</sup> Including CertHE, HNC, DipHE, HND, Foundation Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Grad Cert/Dip, PGCert, PGDip, Master's Degree.

- United States of America

### 3. English Language Tests

For candidates who do not automatically qualify under the criteria set in 2 above, the University will consider a range of English language tests and qualifications deemed appropriate for academic study that are used widely across the Higher Education sector.

The University does not normally accept certificates that are more than two years beyond the date of issue, and the University uses online or direct verification services to ensure that the certificates received are valid.

The following tests may satisfy the above requirements:

- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) (also known as Certificate in Advanced English)
- Cambridge English: Business Certificates (for business and cognate disciplines only)
- Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE) (also known as Certificate of Proficiency in English)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for UKVI taken at a UKVI approved Test Centre
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic taken at a UKVI approved Test Centre.
- Pearson Test of English (PTE Academic) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL IBT)
- Wales Academic Language Test (Wales ALT)
- Trinity ISE II and III Tests undertaken from within the UK at a UKVI approved Test Centre
- Certain specific qualifications where the University has benchmarked the use of that qualification against use in the UK Higher Education sector and / or its own previous experience of student performance.
- LanguageCert SELT International ESOL B2 Communicator four skills exam taken at a UKVI approved test centre
- LanguageCert SELT international ESOL C1 Expert four skill exam taken at a UKVI approved test centre
- LanguageCert SELT international ESOL C2 Mastery four skills exam taken at a UKVI approved test centre
- LanguageCert Online International ESOL exam four skills B2 or above
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Cambridge IGCSE

Where the use of another institution's English Language test is proposed for applicants not requiring entry to the UK, as an alternative to one of the English language tests listed above, unless already approved by the University, details of the qualification may be submitted to the University to undertake an exercise to consider approving the test. An administrative charge may be payable to the University to undertake the exercise.

### 4. Levels of Achievement:

The University considers approximate equivalent scores within Levels defined by the Common European Framework for languages (CEFR) for the English language proficiency tests listed above and mapped in Appendix 1:

CEFR Level B1: Study at Level 3

CEFR Level B2: Undergraduate degrees and any study at Levels 4, 5 and 6.

CEFR Level B2: Taught postgraduate study at Level 7 and 8 (including DBA and Professional Doctorate qualifications).

CEFR Level B2: Postgraduate research degrees at Level 8.

Within these levels the University has set Overall, Benchmark and/or Minimum Scores for English Language entry requirements, although some collaborative partners may have agreed other scores for specific programmes of study.

## 5. Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)

Study at Level 4 and above (undergraduate and postgraduate) plus Doctorate of Business Administration and Professional Doctorate programmes only: Minimum Score of 169 or above overall with at least 162 or above in each component part.

## 6. Cambridge English: Business Certificates

These include the following Business English Certificates and may be accepted for business and cognate disciplines only:

- Cambridge English: Business Vantage (BEC Vantage), also known as Business English Certificate (BEC) Vantage.
- Cambridge English: Business Higher (BEC Higher), also known as Business English Certificate (BEC) Higher.
- BULATS: Business Language Testing Service (online certificated version taken with certifying BULATS agents).
- Cambridge English: Financial (ICFE), also known as International Certificate in Financial English. This test has been discontinued from December 2016, but candidates may still qualify within two years of the date of certification.

The following table is a guide to Minimum Scores accepted:

Minimum Scores	BEC Preliminary	BEC Vantage	BEC Higher	BULATS	ICFE
Level 3 study:	80	60	N/A	55	50
Level 4 and above study:	N/A	75	60	65	60

## 7. Cambridge English Proficiency

This test is set at CEFR Level C2, therefore, a pass may be acceptable at all levels of entry.

## 8. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

IELTS has three versions - GENERAL TRAINING, ACADEMIC and IELTS for UKVI.

Admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes should normally be based on the IELTS for UKVI test. Academic tests may also be used. GENERAL TRAINING tests are not designed to test the full range of language skills required for academic purposes and as such cannot be used.

The University recommends all applicants to undertake an IELTS for UKVI test, applicants who complete an Academic test will still be considered.

The Overall Score for Level 3 study is a minimum of IELTS 4.5 (with a Minimum Score of 4.0 in listening, speaking, reading and writing). Please note that some courses at this level may require a higher minimum score for academic reasons.

The Overall Score for Levels 4 to 7 (undergraduate and postgraduate) study as well as DBA and Professional Doctorate courses is IELTS 6.0 (with a Minimum Score of 5.5 in listening, speaking, reading and writing components). Please note that some courses at this level may require a higher minimum score for academic reasons.

The overall score for Level 8 Research only degrees (PhD) study is IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in listening and speaking and 6.5 in reading and writing components).

## **9. Pearson Test of English (PTE Academic)**

Level 3 study: Benchmark Score of 40 with a Minimum Score of 36 in Communicative Skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking). Scores may fall below the Benchmark Score in the Communicative Skills by no more than the specified Minimum Score and in no more than two Communicative Skills.

Level 4 to level 7 (undergraduate and postgraduate) study as well as Doctorate of Business Administration and Professional Doctorate programmes: Benchmark Score of 56 with a Minimum Score of 51 in Communicative Skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking). Scores may fall below the Benchmark Score in the Communicative Skills by no more than the specified Minimum Score and in no more than two Communicative Skills.

## **10. TOEFL iBT**

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) Taken at an authorised test centre or home edition

Only accepted for level 4 to level 7 study plus level 8 programmes of Doctorate of Business Administration and Professional Doctorate courses. An overall minimum score of 72 is required with the following minimum scores in each of the following communicative skills:

Reading - minimum score of 18  
Listening – minimum score of 17  
Writing – minimum score of 17  
Speaking – minimum score of 20

## **11. Wales Academic Language Test (Wales ALT)**

This test is an internal English Language test conducted by the University; the scores for Wales ALT are equivalent to the IELTS test in each of the four components.

## **12. Trinity College London**

Under the UKVI regulations, a student can use a Trinity College London English Language qualification that is defined as a Secure English Language Test (SELT). These test must have been taken at a designated UKVI test centre within the UK.

The tests recognised for all levels of study is the Trinity College of London ISE II or Trinity College of London ISE III qualification.

The University will require a Trinity College of London ISE II with a pass or above overall and a distinction in each component part.

The University will require a Trinity College of London ISE III with a pass overall and with passes or above in each component part.

### **13. LanguageCert International**

The University will require a LanguageCert International ESOL B2 Communicator, C1 Expert or C2 Master 4 skill exam with a pass rate of 50% minimum.

The University recommends all applicants to undertake a LanguageCert International ESOL exam at a UKVI approved test centre although, applicants who complete a LanguageCert Online International test will still be considered.

### **14. International Baccalaureate**

The University will require Higher Level 5 or Standard Level 5 Language A or Higher Level 5 or Standard Level 5 Language B

### **15. Cambridge IGCSE**

Minimum Grade C (grade 4 ) in IGCSE in English as a Second Language satisfy the English language proficiency requirements for undergraduate study.

### **16. Accepted Specific Qualifications.**

The University regularly reviews the English Language qualifications it accepts in line with general use in the UK Higher Educations sector and its own experience of student performance. This can be aligned to planned recruitment activity on a country by country basis. Following a review of both past performance of students from certain countries and a review of UK Higher Education sectoral practice the following country specific qualifications are accepted.

## Table of Specific accepted qualifications

Qualification	Level
SQA HND Business	Pass plus successful pass of Interview with UWTSD English Language Assessor
Botswana BGCSE, English	Grade C or above
Cameroon GCE O Level, English	Grade C or above
Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)	Level 4 in English Language (with a minimum of level 3 in each skill)
Hong Kong AS Level	Grade C or above.
Indian Standard XII, English Language	70% or above in English Language component
Malaysian 1119 syllabus (UCLES)	For courses with an IELTS equivalent requirement of 6.0 overall or lower: Grade C or above  For courses with an IELTS requirement of 6.5 overall: Grade B or above
Singapore Integrated Programme (IP)	Students should go on to complete A Level or IB qualifications
Ugandan Certificate of Education (UCE)	Grade 6 or above
WAEC West African Senior School Certificate (WASSCE), English	Grade C or above
Zambian General Certificate of Education, English	Grade C or above

### 17. Reviewing the Policy

The University regularly reviews the English Language qualifications that it accepts and the above policy may change in line with student performance and developments in the sector.