

# Testing NESB International Students For English: The Australian Approach

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# English Proficiency

This presentation is from a policy perspective rather than that of an English language Teacher.

What follows is true of Macquarie University and broadly true for Higher Education in Australia.

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# English Proficiency-Entry Criteria

- The last criteria that must be satisfied is English language proficiency for students for whom English is not a first language. Students must demonstrate their English language proficiency by submitting a test score recognised by Macquarie University.
- Offers may be made conditionally on English being satisfied.

# English Proficiency-The Tests

- All have strengths and weaknesses, generally hotly debated by ESL teachers
- All have geographic strengths in terms of courses provision and testing. Geographic strengths will relate to market of owner countries.
  - This can cause great difficulties for students if institutions are not flexible.
- All have equivalency tables

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# English Proficiency-The Tests

- In addition there is a plethora of smaller scale tests from countries, ESL centres, high school systems, etc.
- QUESTION: HOW TO WEAVE A PATH THROUGH THIS AND NOT DISADVANTAGE STUDENTS

- There are a number of major tests that are recognized
  - IELTS (Owned by Cambridge Uni, British Council and IDP Education Australia)-British and Australian based
  - TOEFL (Owned by ETS) -US Based
  - Cambridge ESOL (Owned by Cambridge) -British Based

- The following are the standard international tests accepted with the equivalencies
  - **Test Score IELTS** 6.5 overall. Minimum 6.0 in each band
  - **TOEFL (Paper)**580 overall paper-based, 5.0 TWE, 53 listening, 51 writing and 52 reading.
  - **TOEFL (Computer)**237 overall computer-based, 5.0 essay writing, 19 in all sections.
  - **TOEFL (Internet)**92 overall internet-based, 23 in all sections
  - **(Cambridge English Test)** C+ grade in Advanced English.

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# English Proficiency-Others

## English Language Provider

- Australian Centre for Languages (ACL)
- Insearch Language Centre
- National Centre for English Language Training & Research (NCELTR)
- Sydney English Language Centre (SELC)
- Universal English Centre/College
- University of New South Wales English Entry Course (UEEC)

## Test Score

- 65% overall in EAP Diploma with pass in all sections and 75% in one of Research Essay or Essay Report.
- AEP 10 with an overall score of at least C.
- P Pass in Direct Entry Programs. e.g. DEEP/BPP.
- Advanced Level EAP 1 (12 weeks) with an overall score of at least 75%.
- EAP 3 (8 weeks) with an overall score of at least A.
- UEEC with an overall score of at least 7.0 or C+, and with a minimum score of 20 in Writing.

**Direct Entry**

**Quality Assurance**

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# English Proficiency-Other

- The following test scores and qualifications also fulfill Macquarie University's English Language proficiency requirements:
  - A tertiary qualification in Australia completed within the last 2 years
  - Secondary or tertiary studies in a country in which English is the official language and the study was conducted in English within the last 2 years
  - Hong Kong, Indian, Sri Lankan, Singapore GCE 'A' level general English paper with a grade C or better
  - Year 11 and 12 in an Australian High School
  - Australian matriculation score C or better
  - Norway Upper Secondary School: IEC 4

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# English Proficiency-Other

- And more:

- Sweden Upper Secondary School: Very Good
- Denmark Secondary School: English B level (only) - minimum grade of 9
- Denmark Secondary School: English B level and A level - minimum grade of 7
- Netherlands VWO: 7 in English
- Netherlands HAVO: 7 in English (after at least 1 year of tertiary education)
- Germany: DAAD (5 sections) - minimum top two bands for each section, AND minimum English score in Abitur of 3.0 (grades 7-15)
- Germany: DAAD (4 sections) - minimum top three bands for each section, AND minimum English score in Abitur of 3.0 (grades 7-15)

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That's All Folks

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