

# English Language Policy

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<b>Feedback</b> or issues arising on implementation of this policy should be communicated to the policy author.	
Policy Author	Student Recruitment and Admissions Manager

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the standards and requirements for assessing the English language proficiency of international applicants and students at SETU, ensuring a fair, transparent, and consistent process.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all applicants and students whose first language is not English and who are applying to or enrolled in programs at SETU. The policy outlines the expectations for English language proficiency at various academic levels and details which tests and qualifications are accepted. The policy also outlines the commitment of the University to supporting students through the provision of English language classes and other opportunities to develop their proficiency in English, both written and verbal

## 3. Responsibilities and Implementation

The following roles and responsibilities apply in relation to this Policy:

<b>Academic Council</b>	To review and approve the policy on a periodic basis
<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To ensure the Policy is reviewed and approved by the Academic Council</li><li>• To consult as appropriate with other members of the Executive and Management Teams.</li><li>• To liaise with the Registrar's Office on information received in relation to potential breaches of the policy or non-compliance to it.</li><li>• To ensure the appropriate standards and procedures are in place to support the policy.</li></ul>
<b>Relevant Managers (Admissions/Global etc.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To define and implement standards and procedures which enforce the policy.</li><li>• To oversee compliance with the policy and supporting standards and procedures.</li><li>• To inform the VPs for Academic Affairs &amp; Registry of suspected non-compliance and/or suspected breaches of the policy and supporting standards and procedures.</li></ul>

<b>Staff / Students / Researchers /Employees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To adhere to policy statements in this document.</li> <li>• To report suspected breaches or non-compliance of policy to their Head of Department and the Registrar</li> </ul>
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#### **4. Policy**

This section of the policy details the English language proficiency requirements for admission to SETU programs. Since programs at SETU are delivered in English (except for certain language-specific modules), all applicants must demonstrate a strong command of the English language.

In addition to meeting program entry requirements, applicants whose first language is not English or who have not completed an Irish qualification (such as the Irish Leaving Certificate or QQI Level 5 and above) must provide evidence of English language proficiency as specified below. English language test results must typically be issued within two years of the program start date, and the required scores must be achieved in a single sitting. Appendix A lists the accepted English language tests and the minimum entry requirements for each.

Applicants from countries where English is considered the primary language, or those who hold an undergraduate (Level 8) or postgraduate (Level 8 or 9) qualification from a recognised institution in such countries, are exempt from providing evidence of English language proficiency. However, as outlined in Appendix B, while SETU may not require English Language Test results in these cases, an applicant may still need to provide them for visa purposes. It is important for applicants to verify the visa requirements for their specific country. This list is updated annually as part of the policy review process.

Applicants are informed of the English language proficiency requirements through the publication of detailed information on the SETU website.

#### **5. Violation of Policy**

Students who fail to meet the specified English Language entry requirements outlined will not be admitted to SETU programs. Similarly, applicants who do not provide the necessary documentation to verify their English language proficiency, as outlined in the entry requirements, will not receive an offer of admission. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that all required evidence of English language proficiency is submitted within the specified timeframe, as incomplete applications or failure to meet the language standards will result in non-admittance to the university.

## **6. Measuring Success**

The success of an English Language policy can be measured through several key indicators. One primary measure is the academic performance and progression rates of admitted students, as proficiency in English directly impacts their ability to engage with coursework, participate in discussions, and complete assessments effectively. Retention rates can also serve as a metric, indicating whether students are adequately supported in their language abilities to succeed.

External benchmarks, such as accreditation reviews or comparisons with similar institutions, can further validate the policy's impact. Monitoring these factors ensures that the policy achieves its goal of equipping students with the language skills necessary for academic success.

## **7. Student Supports**

SETU is committed to ensuring all students have access to comprehensive and consistent English language support across its campuses, thereby enabling their academic success. Key measures include the provision of online drop-in English language support sessions, the organisation of in-person non-credit English language classes where required, and the prioritisation of credit-based English language modules. These support classes will address varying proficiency levels, focusing on areas such as General English, Academic English, and advanced writing skills for postgraduate students (Levels 9 and 10) engaged in research, projects, and dissertations.

As part of international student orientation and ongoing integration efforts, support for extra-curricular engagement through involvement in activities such as International days, celebratory events marking significant cultural dates (Eid Al-Fitr; Diwali; Chinese New Year) and membership of Clubs and Societies may also be provided, enabling opportunities to practice conversational English and access practical information about living in Ireland. These initiatives align with SETU's strategic objective to foster a globally engaged, inclusive, and supportive academic environment, enhancing the academic and professional development of its diverse student body.

## **8. Review of Policy**

Regularly reviewing the English Language policy is crucial to maintaining its relevance and effectiveness, especially given the evolving nature of English language tests and their formats. Establishing an annual review schedule allows for timely updates to align the policy with international education standards and address the shifting needs of SETU students. This process should include active collaboration with academic staff and international offices, utilising their expertise to refine the policy and ensure it meets the demands of SETU programs. Consistent updates will preserve the policy's credibility, incorporate new

test options, and address any challenges faced by applicants.

## Appendix A – English Test entry requirements – International applicants

### *Postgraduate English Language entry requirements*

Examining Body/Framework	Minimum standard
IELTS	6 IELTS
TOEFL – Computer Based Test	213
TOEFL – Internet Based Test	80
TOEFL – Paper Based Test	575
TIE	C1
TOEIC	660
Trinity College London	Trinity GESE 9 or ISE II
Cambridge Exams	FCE (Grade B)
Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English	Grade C
Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English	Grade B
CEFR	Low C1
ETAPP	C1
PTE (Academic)	55
QQI FET	Merit
Oxford Test of English	125 (with a minimum of 100 in each component)
Language Cert	B2 Communicator (with a minimum average of 33)

### *Undergraduate English Language entry requirements*

Examining Body/Framework	Minimum standard
IELTS	5.5 IELTS (minimum of 5 IELTS in each component)
TOEFL – Computer Based Test	196 (min score of 15 in each component)
TOEFL – Internet Based Test	70 (min score of 15 in each component)
TOEFL – Paper Based Test	550
GCE O-Level English Language	Grade C

GCSE English	Grade C
TIE	B2+
TOEIC	605
Trinity College London	Trinity GESE 8 or ISE II
Cambridge Exams	FCE (High Grade C)
Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English	Grade C
South East Technological University (Certificate in English for Academic Study or the Certificate in Academic English)	Overall Pass
CEFR	B2
ETAPP	B2+
PTE (Academic)	50
QQI FET	Pass
Oxford Test of English	111 (with a minimum of 100 in each component)
Irish Leaving Certificate	Ordinary Level O6
Language Cert	B2 Communicator (with a minimum average of 25)

## Appendix B - Exemption from English Language Policy

Majority English-Speaking Countries	
American Samoa	Marshall Islands
Anguilla	Montserrat
Antigua & Barbuda	Namibia
Australia	New Zealand
Bahamas	Nigeria
Barbados	Seychelles
Belize	Sierra Leone
Bermuda	Singapore
Botswana	Solomon Islands
British Virgin Islands (BVI)	South Africa
Canada	St Helena
Cayman Islands	St Kitts & Nevis
Dominica	St Lucia
Falkland Islands	St Vincent & the Grenadines
Fiji	Tanzania
Ghana	The Gambia
Gibraltar	Trinidad & Tobago
Grenada	Turks & Caicos Islands
Guam	Uganda
Guyana	United Kingdom
Jamaica	US Virgin Islands
Kenya	USA



Lesotho	Zambia
Liberia	Zimbabwe
Malta	