

Maynooth University

English Language Statement of Practice

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1.0 Document Control

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2.0 Purpose and Scope

2.1 Context

Maynooth University is committed to upholding the highest standards of excellence in all admission-related activities.

This English language statement of practice is developed in accordance with the International Education Mark (IEM) requirements the QQI Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education to International Learners (2024).

The statement of practice aligns with the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region and supports the university's commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive learning environment.

2.2 Objectives

This statement of practice outlines Maynooth University's fair, transparent, and consistent requirements for evaluating the English language ability of international learners.

2.3 Scope

This statement of practice applies to all programmes of study leading to academic qualifications awarded by Maynooth University, including:

- Full-time and part-time undergraduate students
- Postgraduate research and taught program participants
- International learners seeking admission to Maynooth University programmes
- Full-time and adjunct academic faculty
- Administrative and support staff
- Research assistants and postdoctoral researchers
- Visiting scholars and international collaborators

2.4 Guiding Principles

- Linguistic inclusivity and support
- Continuous improvement of language skills
- Transparent and fair language assessment
- Holistic approach to language development
- Recognition of individual linguistic backgrounds

3.0 Definitions

An international learner is defined 'as a person who is not an Irish citizen but is lawfully in the state primarily to receive education and training' (Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) (Amendment) Act 2019)

4.0 Admission Requirements

Admission requirements are a crucial gateway to ensuring academic success and potential. The English language proficiency standards are carefully designed as supportive mechanisms that prepare students

for the intellectual challenges of higher education. By setting clear, transparent language expectations, Maynooth University demonstrates its commitment to supporting students' holistic academic journey, recognizing that language skills are fundamental to learning, research, and future professional success.

International learners must meet minimum English language proficiency requirements.

4.1 Maynooth University English Language Requirements

English Language Test	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
IELTS	6.5 with no less than 6.0 in each band	6.5 with no less than 6.0 in each band
Duolingo English Test (DET)	120 with no less than 110 in literacy, conversation and comprehension subscores and no less than 95 in production. (This lower production subscore applies to non-EU applicants only)	120 with no less than 110 in literacy, conversation and comprehension subscores and no less than 95 in production
International Baccalaureate	English A1, A2, or B5 at Higher Level (4 at either Level if presenting IB through English) NOTE: Applicants whose school-leaving examinations are more than two years old should present additional proof of English	N/A
Pearson Test of English	63 with no less than 59 for each item in the Communicative Skills section	63 with no less than 59 for each item in the Communicative Skills section
TOEFL paper-based test	N/A	N/A
TOEFL internet-based test	iBT: 90 with no less than 21 in writing and at least 19 in all other sections	iBT: 90 with no less than 21 in writing and at least 19 in every other section
Cambridge Proficiency Cert.	176+ on Cambridge English scale with no less than 169 in each skill and use of English. Proficiency Certificate, Grade C or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)	176+ on Cambridge English scale with no less than 169 in each skill and use of English. Proficiency Certificate, Grade C or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)
Cambridge Advanced Cert.	176+ on Cambridge English scale with no less than 169 in each skill and use of English Advanced Certificate, Grade C or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)	176+ on Cambridge English scale with no less than 169 in each skill and use of English Advanced Certificate, Grade C or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)
Cambridge First Cert.	176+ on Cambridge English scale with no less than 169 in each skill and use of English First Certificate, Grade A (CEFR Level C1)	N/A
ETAPP	C1 or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)	C1 or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)
Oxford Test of English	140 with no less than 125 in each skill	140 with no less than 125 in each skill
Trinity College London ISE	ISE III with at least merit in each skill category	ISE III with at least merit in each skill category

Language Cert	B2 Communicator High Pass with no less than 33 in each skill taken with no more than 3 months between components.	B2 Communicator High Pass with no less than 33 in each skill taken with no more than 3 months between components.
Language Cert Academic	70 overall with 65 in each skill	70 overall with 65 in each skill
QQI FET ESL	Merit in the module "English as a Second Language" or "Communications" (level 5)	Merit in the module "English as a Second Language" or "Communications" (level 5)
Skills for English UKBI B2 (4 Component Test)	Pass with Merit in all components	Pass with Merit in all components
University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES)	with English at grade C or above (incorporating the Oxford Examining Body's English as a Foreign Language Higher Paper)	with English at grade C or above (incorporating the Oxford Examining Body's English as a Foreign Language Higher Paper)

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide verifiable evidence of English language proficiency.

4.2 Pre-Sessional English Language Support

Pre-sessional English language programmes for students who wish to improve their English language score are available [here](#).

- 10-week programme
- 5-week programme

These programmes are delivered by the English for Academic Purposes section of the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (SMLLC), and all programmes include an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) element. Courses are refreshed on an ongoing basis following review of student evaluations to ensure that they meet international learner needs. Quality assurance and enhancement for pre-sessional English for Academic Purposes courses is included within the quality structures of the SMLLC.

5.0 In-Sessional English Language Support

The university's writing standards are designed to empower students to be critical contributors to academic discourse. By emphasizing not just technical correctness but also originality, ethical communication, and disciplinary nuance, these standards prepare students for appropriate academic writing standards in various disciplines.

5.1 Academic Communication Guidelines

Maynooth University aims to develop the critical skills of students to achieve the highest standard of academic writing and communication. The following documents are available to students from the to encourage best practices for [academic writing](#):

- Academic Writing General Issues
- Academic Writing Planning - Before Research
- Academic Writing Research
- Academic Writing Planning After Research

- Academic Writing Guidelines
- Academic Writing Referencing and Citing

5.2 *Academic Integrity and Language*

To ensure compliance with best practice, Maynooth University has a number of resources available to students including:

- [Academic Writing Support](#)
- Support for international students in understanding academic writing norms
- [Comprehensive citation and referencing workshops](#)
- Clear guidelines on paraphrasing and originality
- Advanced plagiarism detection systems

5.3 *English for Academic Purposes In-session classes*

International learners have the opportunity to register for [non-credit bearing extra-curricular courses](#) focussed on English for Academic Purposes in Semester 1 and Semester 2. These courses are available at three CEFR levels: B2.2, C1.1 and C1.2.

Course content focuses on raising the linguistic and communicative competence of students to support them in successfully completing their studies. They also equip students with essential study skills and knowledge in order to be more critically aware of their own learning through the medium of English. Assessment is across all core competencies (listening, speaking, reading and writing), and candidates are also asked to prepare a presentation.

These programmes are delivered by the English for Academic Purposes section of the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (SMLLC). Courses are refreshed on an ongoing basis following review of student evaluations at the end of the semester to ensure that they meet international learner needs. Quality assurance and enhancement for in-session English for Academic Purposes courses is included within the quality structures of the SMLLC.

5.4 *Support and Resources*

Maynooth University Centre for Teaching and Learning have adopted a Writing-Enriched Curriculum to “support the integration of relevant writing and writing instruction into departmental curricula and to increase the rate at which students’ writing meets local faculty expectations”. In addition, Maynooth University’s Academic Writing Support (AWS) office offers free, friendly, non-judgemental writing support to students. Supports include:

- One-to-one sessions for all students, both in person and online
- Academic Excellence Sessions (AES) for small groups of students
- Tailored group sessions by request
- Drop in sessions
- Doctoral Writing Group for PhD students

6.0 *Appeals Process*

Applicants can appeal decisions regarding the assessment of English language qualifications. The initial appeal should be submitted to the Registrar’s Office, registrar@mu.ie.

7.0 Responsibility

The Registrar is responsible for this English Language Statement of Practice.

Prospective students are responsible for ensuring their application meets all admission requirements.

8.0 Related Documents

- [Maynooth University Teaching and Learning Guidelines \(August 2018\)](#)
- [QQI Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education to International Learners \(2024\)](#).
- [Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region](#)
- [Qualifications and Quality Assurance \(Education and Training\) \(Amendment\) Act 2019](#)
- [Maynooth University Centre for Teaching and Learning Schedule of Workshops](#)
- [Maynooth University Library & information Skills Tutorials](#)