

LANGUAGE ADMISSIONS POLICY			
Department	International Partnerships		
Author	Pro Vice Chancellor (Partnerships – UK and International) / International Student Admissions Manager		
Authorised By:	Academic Board		
Implementation By:	International Partnerships / Admissions		
Policy/Strategy/Procedure Replaced:	English Language Policy (version 1.4)		
Version No:	3	Approval Committee:	Academic Board
Date approved:	June 2022	Minute no:	21.096
Status:	Approved	Implementation Date:	September 2022
Period of approval:	3 years	Review Date:	July 2025
I have carried out an equality impact assessment screening to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality.			Yes
I have considered the impact of the Policy/Strategy/Procedure (delete as appropriate) on the Welsh language and Welsh language provision within the University.			Yes

SCOPE

- 1.1. This policy sets out the University's entrance requirements to demonstrate they possess a minimum standard of language proficiency. This applies to all students studying for an award, including those studying with partners.

DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. The following definitions are used within the context of this policy and the associated Annex:

UKVI	UK Visas and Immigration division of the Home Office responsible for the UK visa system.
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Pre-sessional	A course delivered before a student's main programme of study to increase their English language skills and knowledge in order to satisfy the University's entry requirements.
In-sessional	A course delivered alongside a student's main programme of study.
IELTS	International English Language Testing System. The IELTS referred to throughout this policy is IELTS for Academic Purposes unless otherwise stated.
SELT	UKVI-approved Secure English Language Test.
GELT	Wrexham University English Language Test

INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. This policy outlines the minimum language entry requirements for students studying at Wrexham University.
- 3.2. The University is required to fulfil statutory immigration obligations when recruiting students. This policy outlines the ways in which the University will fulfil those requirements in relation to language standards.
- 3.3 This policy will be reviewed annually and the University's list of accepted language tests and qualifications will be kept under continual review by the International Development Working Group.
- 3.4 The University reserves the right to amend its language requirements out with those in this Policy to adhere to regulatory changes as and when these arise.

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE ENTRY REQUIREMENT

- 4.1 The University sets a core academic language entry requirement for all students studying towards a Higher Education award:

Language skills should be of an appropriate standard to ensure that students can engage, participate and achieve at the level of their intended course of study in the language(s) of delivery and assessment. This requirement applies to all University students studying for an award, including those studying with partners.

STUDENT VISA IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Students who require a short-term study visa to allow them to study on an intensive English Language course with the University for a duration between 6 and 11 months should refer to the language requirements available on: <https://wrexham.ac.uk/international-students/visas/short-term-study-visa/> .
- 5.2 Applicants studying on programmes of less than 6 months duration applying for a visitor visa to enter the UK or applicants completing non-credit bearing academic study, other than English language tuition are required to show they have competence in each of the 4 skill areas (listening, reading, writing and speaking) equivalent to B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

STUDENT VISA IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 For applicants requiring a Student Visa, the University English language entry requirements should comply with or exceed, any relevant statutory minimum English language requirements as per the United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI), its successors, and other relevant bodies;
- Student migrants entering the UK for degree level study must have competence in each of the 4 skill areas (reading, writing, listening and speaking) equivalent to level B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching and Assessment.
- 6.2 Candidates applying for below degree level courses and pre-sessional English courses must hold a UKVI approved Secure English Language test (SELT). Students are exempted from this requirement if they are a national from a majority English speaking country (See 6.3.1).
- 6.3 Candidates for degrees and other higher education awards shall satisfy at least one of the following academic entry criteria from 6.3.1 – 6.3.5 below.
- 6.3.1 For nationals of “majority English speaking countries” (as defined by the UKVI: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english>) the possession of a Level 2 English Language qualification or equivalent is required.
- 6.3.2 Possession of a UKVI-approved Secure English Language Test (SELT) meeting the criteria in Table 1. The current list of UKVI approved language tests, test centres and validity periods are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt>.

Table 1: Minimum English language entry requirements by level of study

Level of study	Aggregate SELT score (IELTS or equivalent)
Undergraduate and Postgraduate (taught) including MBA	6.0*
Postgraduate (research)	6.5*

* With no skill score more than 0.5 below the overall score

- 6.3.3 Successful achievement of an appropriate Wrexham University English Language Test (GELT) score, as set out in table 2 below:

Table 2: Minimum English language entry requirements by level of study

Level of study	Aggregate GELT score
Undergraduate and Postgraduate (taught) including MBA	6.0*
Postgraduate (research)	6.5*

* With no skill score more than 0.5 below the overall score

- 6.3.4 Successful achievement of an appropriate alternative English language test equivalent to the level of B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) (see <https://wrexham.ac.uk/international-students/english-language-requirements>)
- 6.3.5 Successful completion of a bachelor's degree equivalent (or higher award), pursued solely through the medium of English, either in the UK, in a majority English-speaking country (see 6.3.1) or elsewhere, normally with a classification of 2:2 or above, normally achieved no more than five years before the proposed date of entry to the University.
- 6.4 Applicants who do not meet any of the academic entry requirements outlined in 6.3.1 – 6.3.5 may be considered for entry on to a pre-sessional programme as detailed below:

PRE-SESSIONAL COURSES

- 6.4.1 Applicants who do not meet the requirements outlined above, but who have a SELT up to a B2 can be offered a single CAS for a pre-sessional course of less than 3 months and a main degree programme subject to the successful completion of an appropriate pre-sessional programme detailed below (the main degree programme must commence within 1 month of the pre-sessional course):

Programme entry requirement	Initial UKVI-approved SELT score	Appropriate Pre-sessional course
IELTS 6.0**	IELTS 5.5 (with no skill score below 5.5)*	200 hours (125 Taught hours) – 20 credits
IELTS 6.5**	IELTS 5.5 (with no skill score below 5.5)*	400 hours (230 Taught hours) – 40 credits
IELTS 6.5**	IELTS 6.0 (with no skill score below 5.5)	200 hours (125 Taught hours) – 20 credits
IELTS 6.0***	IELTS 5.0 (with no skill score below 4.5)	400 hours (230 Taught hours) – 40 credits
IELTS 6.0***	IELTS 5.5 (with no skill score below 5.0)	200 hours (125 Taught hours) – 20 credits
IELTS 6.5***	IELTS 5.5 (with no skill score below 5.0)	400 hours (230 Taught hours) – 40 credits

* UKVI require that the skill score must be 5.5 in all elements for B2.

** Students who do not successfully achieve the required level in their GELT assessment, will be required to complete a mandatory in-sessional English Language course until they reach the required GELT score.

*** Applicants with a B1 who do not successfully achieve the programme requirement in their GELT will not be permitted to progress to their main programme, they will be withdrawn from their studies and the UKVI will be notified.

- 6.4.2 Applicants who do not meet the requirements outlined above, but who have a SELT at **B1** where the overall score is IELTS 5.0 or less, will be offered a separate CAS for the pre-sessional course. Students will become eligible for a second CAS for their main degree programme on successful completion of the pre-sessional English course.

Students who do not successfully complete the required GELT assessment detailed below will not be eligible to continue to their main degree programme. Students must remain fully compliant with the terms of their immigration leave at all times and it is their responsibility to ensure they apply for their second CAS and visa within the statutory timeframes set out by UKVI.

Programme entry requirement	Initial UKVI-approved SELT score*	Appropriate Pre-sessional course
IELTS 6.0*	IELTS 4.0 (with no skills score below 4.0)	1000 hours (690 Taught hours) – 100 credits
IELTS 6.0*	IELTS 4.5 (with no skills score below 4.0)	600 hours (414 Taught hours) – 60 credits
IELTS 6.5*	IELTS 4.5 (with no skills score below 4.0)	1000 hours (690 Taught hours) – 100 credits
IELTS 6.5*	IELTS 5.0 (with no skills score below 4.5)	600 hours (414 Taught hours) – 60 credits

* Suitable for students who require a pre-sessional of more than 3 months, whose pre-sessional course will finish more than 1 month before their main programme, or who do not otherwise meet the conditions for a single CAS set out in 6.4.1

VISA EXTENSIONS

6.5 CAS are issued to cover the expected period of study. Students who require a new CAS for a visa extension to continue the same programme due to resits, repeat years, suspension or any other reason, will be subject to all the requirements of this policy.

VALIDITY PERIODS

6.6 English Language Test outcomes should normally be taken no more than two years from the proposed date of entry to the University. Where this has elapsed, the applicant must be able to demonstrate their English language ability is at the required standard by meeting the standards as described under 6.3.

6.7 Where the validity period in 6.3.5 has elapsed, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have appropriate English language competence by meeting the standards as described under 6.3.

UNIVERSITY PREROGATIVE

6.8 The University reserves the right to require any applicant that requires a Student Visa to complete a SELT or a GELT to demonstrate that they meet the appropriate language standard.

RESEARCH DEGREES

6.9 In addition to the requirements laid out above, English Language entry requirements for research degrees shall also comply with the requirements set by the relevant research degree awarding body.

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

6.10 The requirements laid out above are minimal. The English Language entry requirements will be reviewed annually by the Faculties. Faculties may bring proposals to Academic Board in respect of programme-specific requirements. Where additional requirements or increases to the minimum English Language entry requirements have been made, these will be clearly outlined on the University's website, offer letter and in other relevant marketing materials.