THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
CAHSS Visiting Student Office

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR CAHSS VUGS

For admissions from September 2024 onwards (in addition to academic requirements)

English Language for Admissions and Enrolment in Level 08 Courses

Exchange applicants (IERA/IDEP/IINT)

Applicants are expected to have achieved a B2, and home institutions are expected to only nominate students who have achieved a B2.

This will not be verified by the University of Edinburgh.

Study Abroad applicants (IARC/IIOT/IIEU)

Applicants are required to provide an approved international English qualification or English Language test in order to evidence B2 English language proficiency. Depending on the certificate provided, qualifications must be no more than two or three and a half years old at the start date of the relevant programme:

Must be no more than two years old:

- IELTS – 6.5 overall (5.5 in each component)
- TOEFL iBT – 92 overall (20 in each component)
- Trinity ISE – ISE II (Distinction in all components) / ISE III (Pass in all components)
- PTE Academic (Pearsons) – overall 62 (54 in each component)
- Oxford ELLT Global and Oxford ELLT Digital – 8 overall (6 in each component)

Must be no more than three and a half years old:

- Cambridge CAE/CPE – 176 overall (162 in each component), grade A-C
- Alternative qualifications as listed on our central English Language requirements website

Qualifications can be provided electronically but must be clear and unobstructed. All documents that are not in English should be officially translated.

English Language for Visa Purposes

If a student requires a CAS for a Student Route visa (previously known as a Tier 4), they are required to provide one of the above approved international English qualifications or English Language tests in order to evidence B2 English language proficiency.

Qualifications can be provided electronically but must be clear and unobstructed. All documents that are not in English should be officially translated.

Enrolment in Level 10 Courses

Students who wish to enrol on level 10 courses in CAHSS (i.e. courses in 3rd or 4th year) will need to demonstrate English Language proficiency at a higher level. Level 10 courses in CAHSS require an advanced ability to express ideas and arguments clearly in writing. In general, a CEFR C1 Level aligns with the proficiency that our full-degree international cohort will have developed across their first two years of study at the University of Edinburgh. Places in Level 10 courses are limited; we have a duty of care to ensure students have sufficient capacity to succeed in their teaching and assessments, and must also seek to mitigate against course withdrawals later in the semester.

Note: this does not apply where **Subject-specific Exchange applicants** are enrolling on Level 10 courses within the subject area of their exchange agreement.

Accepted evidence of English Language proficiency for level 10 courses:

Applicants can provide one of the below approved international English qualifications or English Language tests in order to evidence the English Language proficiency required for level 10 courses:

Must be no more than two years old:

- IELTS – 6.5 overall (6.5 in each component)
- TOEFL iBT – 92 overall (23 in each component)
- Trinity ISE – ISE III (Pass in all components)
- PTE (Pearsons) Academic: 62 overall (62 in each component)
- Oxford ELLT Global and Oxford ELLT Digital – 8 overall (8 in each component)

Must be no more than three and a half years old:

- Cambridge CAE/CPE – 176 overall (176 in each component), grade A-C

Alternative evidence for level 10 courses

If an applicant cannot demonstrate their English language competency by way of one of the above tests, they may provide a CAHSS VSO Declaration signed by the applicant and the applicant's home institution confirming that they believe their English competency to be minimum CEFR C1 ***and*** one of the following:

- A certificate from one of the alternative qualifications as listed on our central English Language requirements website. This qualification must be no more than three and a half years old.
  or
- A certificate from one of the above-listed exams, which is older than two years but no more than 3.5 years.
  or
- Evidence demonstrating previously completed English Language Courses as part of secondary school or undergraduate degree with a successful achievement of a minimum CEFR C1 level in all four components.
  or
- Evidence demonstrating the applicant is currently taking English Language courses and anticipates achieving a minimum CEFR C1 level prior to arriving at the University of Edinburgh.

Exceptions to the Provision of English Language Evidence:

1. If an applicant is a passport holder of an English majority country, there is no requirement to demonstrate their English language competency for either admissions or visa purposes.

2. If an applicant is attending an institution that has been approved by the University of Edinburgh as an institution where English is the medium of teaching as demonstrated by inclusion on the following list: https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/your-application/entry-requirements/english-requirements/approved-universities then there is no requirement to demonstrate their English language competency for either admissions or visa purposes.

Note: There is an English Language flexibility process that can be progressed and approved by either the Head of the Visiting Student Office or Student Recruitment and Admissions in certain situations. The Visiting Student Office can provide further information about this.

Rachael Quirk
Head of CAHSS VSO
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