

English Language Proficiency

Applicants whose first language is not English must furnish evidence of their proficiency in the use of the English language by a satisfactory achievement within the last two years. Language of instruction is not a considering factor.

In order to be automatically exempt from the English proficiency requirement, your first learned language must be English, or you must have been educated in an academic degree program for at least two years in a country whose principal language is English. Applicants from the countries below are given an automatic ELP exemption.

Australia	Liberia	South Africa
Barbados	Malawi	Swaziland
Botswana	Malta	Tanzania
Ghana	Namibia	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	New Zealand	Uganda
Ireland	Nigeria	United Kingdom
Jamaica	Papua New Guinea	United States of America
Kenya	Sierra Leone	Zambia
Lesotho	Singapore	Zimbabwe

Official language status is not relevant; English must be the primary language used in the country. Please note that the decision to grant an exemption is at the discretion of the department and contingent on the approval of the Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine does not offer conditional admission based on completion of an English language proficiency program.

Students who are required to present evidence of proficiency in English must make their own arrangements to write the TOEFL, IELTS or CAEL and to have the official results sent directly to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies by the testing agency. Those graduates from Fanshawe College's ESL Program must provide official proof of graduation.

- The [Test of English as a Foreign Language](#) (TOEFL). The minimum acceptable score is 5 both individual and overall. Prior to 21 January 2026, minimum score of 100, with no individual score below 25. [Western's TOEFL ID is 0984].
- The [International English Language Testing Service](#) (IELTS Academic). The minimum acceptable score is 7 out of 9 with no individual module less than 6. The IELTS is offered in 6 test centres in the US and 3 in Canada. The online IELTS Indicator test is not accepted. we are accepting the new IELTS Online test as it contains all of the components of the test conducted at a testing center.
- The [Duolingo English Test](#). Applicants must attain a minimum score of 120.
- The [Canadian Academic English Language Assessment](#) (CAEL Assessment). The minimum acceptable score is 60. The CAEL Assessment is offered in several countries throughout the world as well as Canada.
- [Western English Language Centre](#). The requirement is successful completion of the High-Advanced level.
- [Fanshawe College's ESL Program](#). The requirement is graduation from Level 10, English for Academic Purposes, with a minimum 80% in all components.