

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
UNDERGRADUATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS TO HEALTH-RELATED COURSES

▪ **Overview of English language requirements:**

The English language requirements in this table apply to applicants to the following courses:

- BSc Nursing (Adult)
- BSc Nursing (Mental Health)
- MSCi Nursing (Dual Award in Adult and Mental Health)
- BSc Occupational Therapy
- FdSc Dental Hygiene
- BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy
- BSc Physiotherapy
- BA Social Work
- BSc Speech and Language Therapy
- Certificate of Higher Education in Health and Social Care

The tables below show the English language qualifications and tests that are acceptable for entry to health-related courses at the University of Essex and the levels required. The levels are the minimum entry requirements for admission.

▪ **English qualifications or tests not listed in the table:**

If you are taking an English language qualification that is not specified below, please email ugquery@essex.ac.uk for advice on whether it is acceptable for entry.

▪ **Test dates/ shelf life**

For all the tests listed in this table, except Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic and TOEFL, we can accept a test taken **up to 5 years** before the start of the course you are applying for at Essex. For October 2026 entry an acceptable English language qualification would need to have been achieved in June 2021 or more recently.

- **PTE Academic:** valid for **3 years (taken in June 2023 or more recently)**. Must be verifiable online by the University at the point that any offer is made
- **TOEFL:** valid for **2 years (taken in June 2024 or more recently)**. Must be verifiable online by the University at the point that any offer is made

The conditions of your offer may include an English language requirement if your previous English language qualification was outside of the period specified above for the test you have taken. If you are unsure why your offer specifies an additional English language test, please email ugquery@essex.ac.uk and we will be happy to clarify this for you.

▪ **Combining scores from two tests:**

We can accept a combination of two tests of the same type (e.g., two IELTS tests) providing both the overall and all component scores are met across the two tests, and both were taken within the accepted shelf life for that test.

English Language test/qualification (Listed in alphabetical order)	Minimum Level required See the first page for information about your test date and the shelf life of your test				
	BSc Nursing (Adult and Mental Health)	BA Social Work BSc Occupational Therapy BSc Physiotherapy	BSc Speech and Language Therapy	FdSc Dental Hygiene BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy	Certificate of Higher Education in Health & Social Care
Cambridge English Qualifications: C1 Advanced (Certificate in Advanced English) Or C2 Proficiency (Certificate of Proficiency in English)	185 overall on the Cambridge English Scale with a minimum of 176 in Writing and 185 in all other components	185 overall on the Cambridge English Scale with a minimum of 176 in each component	200 overall on the Cambridge English Scale with a minimum of 191 in each component	169 overall on the Cambridge English Scale with a minimum of 162 in each component	N/A
GCSE/ IGCSE/ Cambridge O-Level English (as a first or second language)	Grade C or 4				N/A

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	BSc Nursing (Adult and Mental Health)	BA Social Work BSc Occupational Therapy BSc Physiotherapy	BSc Speech and Language Therapy	FdSc Dental Hygiene BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy	Certificate of Higher Education in Health & Social Care
IELTS (Academic) IELTS Online (Academic) IELTS (Academic) One Skill Retake IELTS Indicator	7.0 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in Writing and 7.0 in all other components	7.0 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in each component	8.0 overall with a minimum of 7.5 in each component	6.0 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component	<p>UKVI IELTS (Academic) only: 5.0 overall with a minimum of 4.0 in each component</p> <p>IELTS tests must be a UKVI IELTS taken at an approved IELTS test centre on the UKVI's list, available here, in order to be accepted for entry to below degree-level courses.</p> <p>Test must be taken within two years of the start of your course.</p>

English Language test/qualification (Listed in alphabetical order)	Minimum Level required See the first page for information about your test date and the shelf life of your test				
	BSc Nursing (Adult and Mental Health)	BA Social Work BSc Occupational Therapy BSc Physiotherapy	BSc Speech and Language Therapy	FdSc Dental Hygiene BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy	Certificate of Higher Education in Health & Social Care
International Baccalaureate	Standard Level or Higher Level grade 4 in any of the below modules: English A: Language and Literature English A: Literature English B English Literature and Performance				N/A
LanguageCert Academic SELT LanguageCert Academic (when taken at a test centre)	75 overall with a minimum of 70 in Writing and 75 in all other components	75 overall with a minimum of 70 in each component	85 overall with a minimum of 80 in each component	65 overall with a minimum of 60 in each component	LanguageCert Academic SELT only: 55 overall with a minimum of 45 in each component Tests must be taken at an approved test centre on the UKVI's list, to be accepted for below degree-level courses. Test must be taken within two years of the start of your course

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Occupational English Test (OET)	Grade B overall and a minimum of grade B in all components (writing, reading, speaking and listening)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pearson Test of English Academic We do not accept PTE Online	76 overall with a minimum of 62 in Writing and 76 in all other components	76 overall with a minimum of 62 in each component	84 overall with a minimum of 80 in each component	60 overall with a minimum of 59 in each component	PTE Academic UKVI only 50 overall, with a minimum of 43 in each component. Tests must be taken at an approved test centre on the UKVI's list, to be accepted for below degree-level courses. Test must be taken within two years of the start of your course

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TOEFL (iBT) TOEFL iBT Online – Special Home Edition TOEFL – My Best Scores	100 overall with a minimum of 26 in all components	100 overall with a minimum of 26 in Writing and 25 in all other components	114 overall with a minimum of 29 in Writing and 27 in all other components	76 overall with a minimum of 18 in reading, 17 in listening, 20 in speaking and 17 in writing	N/A