

Temporary expansion of the language tests referred to in Article 4.2 of the Code of Conduct for International Students in Higher Education

The guidelines were approved on 15 April 2020. The expansion shall apply throughout the period during which the measures to fight the COVID-19 virus are in effect.

Article 4.2 of the Code of Conduct

With respect to the education it offers to international students, the higher education institution determines the minimum language requirements that the international student must meet and makes sure that he/she actually meets these requirements.

For study programmes in Dutch, the provisions of Article 7.28, second paragraph WHW apply.

For study programmes in English, a minimum of an academic IELTS test with an overall band score of at least 6.0 (six) for the B and M level is required.

For preparatory education with a length of 6 up to 12 months, as well as a premaster with a length of at least 6 months, a minimum requirement of 5.0 IELTS applies; for preparatory education or a premaster of 6 months or shorter, a minimum requirement of 5.5 IELTS is required.

The following table shall apply to scores on accepted language tests other than the IELTS test¹:

| IELTS, TOEFL, TOEIC and Cambridge English grades & scale | | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| IELTS | TOEFL Paper | TOEFL Internet | TOEIC ² | | Cambridge English grades and scale |
| | | | Listening and Reading | Speaking and Writing | |
| 7.5 | 625 | 113 | 790 | 400 | Advanced (CAE) - Grade B (scale 194-199) Advanced (CAE) - Grade C (scale 191-193) |
| 7.0 | 600 | 100 | 780 | 350 | First (FCE) - Grade A (scale 185 and above) Advanced (CAE) - Grade C (scale 185 and above) |
| 6.5 | 575 | 90 | 720 | 310 | Advanced (CAE) - Grade C (scale 180-184) First (FCE) - Grade A (scale 180-184) First (FCE) - Grade B (scale 176-179) |
| 6.0 | 550 | 80 | 670 | 290 | First (FCE) - Grade B (scale 173-175) First (FCE) - Grade C (scale 169-172) |
| 5.5 | 525 | 70 | 620 | 260 | First (FCE) - Grade C (scale 162-168) |
| 5.0 | 500 | 60 | 600 | 240 | First (FCE) - Grade C (scale 160-161) B1 level certificate (scale 154-159) |

In case a higher education institution has reasonable doubt about the language test certificate and as a consequence about the international students English proficiency, the higher education institution may impose further requirements related to the English proficiency, in addition to the mandatory language test.

Temporary expansion

Throughout the period during which the measures taken to fight Coronavirus prevent the use of the regular language tests as stated in Article 4.2 of the Code of Conduct, the use of online tests provided by the suppliers listed in Article 4.2 of the Code of Conduct shall be permitted, provided these tests are accompanied by a sufficient guarantee of quality.

Current information on the online language tests that can be used as referred to above, as well as on the minimum scores required is available on the Code of Conduct website. This information will be updated whenever changes occur.

¹ The table is not intended to make comparisons between the listed language tests and/or scores. It is solely intended to formulate the minimum scores for the listed accepted language tests for the admission of international students. These tests have not been related to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), because the CEFR is a framework of level indications, and not an English language test. A CEFR level extends across multiple scores of the language tests listed in the table. For this reason, a minimum score on the specific language test has been included instead of any level indication.

² The threshold values must be met for both components.

All signatories of the Code of Conduct will make every possible effort to facilitate the use of these language tests in order to ensure that the greatest possible share of the prospective students will be able to take a language test as soon as possible.

Current status of online language tests, dated 15 April 2020

The language tests that can be used within the framework of this expansion include the TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test. Information about the test is available at: <https://www.ets.org/s/cv/toefl/at-home/>

The TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test is available in nearly all countries, with the exception of Iran and China. The organizer of the language test, ETS, expects to be able to operate the @home edition in Iran in the near future. For China, the language test can be taken only in Hong Kong and Macao. At the time of writing, ETS was engaged in consultation with the National Education Examinations Authority (NEEA) in order to discuss the possibilities for making the TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test available in Mainland China as well. In addition, measures are being taken in China to ensure proper preparations for the time at which the language centres will be able to re-open. These measures include the expansion of testing capacity and the scheduling of the tests.

The applicable minimum scores are listed in the table below³:

| IELTS | TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test |
|-------|---|
| 7.5 | 113 |
| 7.0 | 100 |
| 6.5 | 90 |
| 6.0 | 80 |
| 5.5 | 70 |
| 5.0 | 60 |

Information on the suppliers/language tests included in the Code of Conduct

IELTS and Cambridge English grades and scale

Cambridge Education does not offer any suitable online alternatives to the IELTS and the Cambridge English grades and scale.

At locations where it is permitted and safe, the language centres are open, and the language tests are being administered. In this regard, the organization has taken additional measures to protect the health of staff members and individuals taking the tests.

Current information concerning which language centres are closed and until when is available on the IELTS website:

<https://www.ielts.org/news/2020/covid19-information-for-our-global-test-taker-community>

The following restrictions apply for Mainland China:

- Beijing: all testing suspended until 30 April 2020
- Guangzhou: all testing suspended until 30 April 2020
- Shanghai: all testing suspended until 30 April 2020
- Chongqing: all testing suspended until 30 April 2020

No restrictions apply for Iran. The testing centres are open, subject to observance of the additional safety measures.

TOEFL and TOEIC

ETS, provider of TOEFL and TOEIC, does not offer an alternative to the TOEIC. The TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition is offered as an alternative to the TOEFL online. As described above, this test may temporarily be used within the framework of Article 4.2 of the Code of Conduct.

For information concerning which centres are closed, please contact the relevant location representative for each country. For additional information, please visit:

https://www.ets.org/s/cv/toefl/institutions/update/?WT.ac=TOEFL_ChinaUpdate_200403

³ The table is not intended to make comparisons between the listed language tests and/or scores. It is solely intended to formulate the minimum scores for the listed accepted language tests for the admission of international students.