

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

**This guideline was approved on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2021**

### 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 test<sup>1</sup>:*

IELTS, TOEFL, TOEIC and Cambridge English grades & scale					
IELTS	TOEFL Paper	TOEFL Internet	TOEIC <sup>2</sup>		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 a few approved 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. This expansion applies to prospective international students, whose educational program starts during the academic year 2021-2022 or 2022-2023.*

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 16 November 2021**

The language tests that can be used within the framework of this expansion include:

- the TOEFL iBT Home Edition test

TOEFL iBT Home Edition test

Information is available at: [About the TOEFL Test \(For Score Users\) \(ets.org\)](https://ets.org)

The TOEFL iBT Home Edition test is available in nearly all countries, with the exception of Iran. In Iran the language tests IELTS and Cambridge English grades and scale can be taken. The test centres of the organisation which provides these tests are open with the necessary safety measures.

The applicable minimum scores are listed in the table below<sup>3</sup>:

IELTS	TOEFL iBT 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.

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. As described above, the TOEFL iBT Home Edition 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:

[Countries Where the TOEFL iBT Test Is Available \(For Score Users\) \(ets.org\)](https://ets.org)

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