

Language tests appendix to the Code of Conduct to elaborate on paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct international student higher education

Date of enactment October 1, 2025

Article 5.2 of the Code of Conduct for International Students in Higher Education states that:

Concerning the education it offers to international students, the education institution will determine the minimum language requirements that the international student must meet and make sure that they have satisfied these requirements.

For study programmes in Dutch, the international student must be sufficiently proficient in the Dutch language to successfully continue the programme, as stipulated in Article 7.28.2 WHW.

The English language requirement for international students who apply for an English language study programme is a certificate of a language test with a minimum score as referred to in the Language Tests Appendix to the Code of Conduct that applies for fulfilment of this provision. The Appendix is published on the website of the Code of Conduct. The scores for each education level in the Appendix are the minimum requirements. The education institution may require a higher score on admission.

The language tests included in this Appendix meet the *Code of Conduct Organizational and Process Requirements, Product Requirements Standard for Language Tests* (hereafter: Standard for Language Tests) as developed by Hobéon, ordered by the National Commission and the umbrella organizations. The standard is published on the Code of Conduct's website.

The English language requirement for international students who apply for an English language study programme is to have passed a test with the minimum score in the table below¹:

Language tests taken in an examination centre	Date of registration*:	For admission to preparatory education with a duration of six to twelve months	For admission to preparatory education with a duration of up to six months	For admission to education at Bachelor's and Master's level or premaster's level
Cambridge English scale Exams: B2 First, C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency	October 1, 2025	Scale 154 - 161	Scale 162- 168	Scale 169 - 175
IELTS Academic, met overall band score	October 1, 2025	5.0	5.5	6.0
LanguageCert Academic	October 1, 2024	54	60	65
Pearson PTE Academic	October 1, 2024	50	58	61
TOEFL iBT Traditional & Paper Edition	October 1, 2024	60	70	80
TOEIC² Listening and Reading Speaking and Writing	October 1, 2024	665	785	865
		275	310	335

¹ The table is not meant to mutually compare language tests or scores. It is only intended to formulate the accepted language tests and minimum scores for the admission requirements of international students.

² The threshold values must be achieved for both elements.

* The language test is included in principle for a duration of six years. Within this term, a reassessment may be requested in accordance with Article 5.4 Code of Conduct for International Students in Higher Education.

Article 5.6 of the Code of Conduct for International Students in Higher Education stipulates with regard to online language tests that³:

To the online language tests included in the Language Test Appendix to the Code of Conduct applies that such online language tests may only be administered as an exception. An exception is when the prospective international student or the international student cannot use a regular language test as meant in the Language Test Appendix to the Code of Conduct because the onsite language test centre cannot be reached or is closed because of unsafe situations in that country.

Language tests taken online	Date of registration**:	For admission to preparatory education with a duration of six to twelve months	For admission to preparatory education with a duration of up to six months	For admission to education at Bachelor's and Master's level or premaster's level
TOEFL iBT Home Edition	October 1, 2024	60	70	80

* The language test is included in principle for a duration of six years. Within this term, a reassessment may be requested in accordance with Article 5.4 Code of Conduct for International Students in Higher Education.

³ The table is not meant to mutually compare language tests or scores. It is only intended to formulate the accepted language tests and minimum scores for the admission requirements of international students.