

Graduate Research Admissions Policy

Schedule 1: English Language Admission Requirements for Graduate Research Courses

Purpose

This Schedule sets out English Language requirements for applicants to Graduate Research awards.

Schedule

English proficiency descriptors and standards

Macquarie University requires applicants to provide evidence that their English language proficiency is appropriate for the linguistic demands of their intended course of study and research.

The descriptors below outline the levels of English proficiency required for entry to Graduate Research courses, with reference to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

Level of English	Description of English Proficiency Standard	Indicative CEFR Level
Minimum proficiency standards for entry to Macquarie University Graduate Research courses		
Competent	Students have effective command of English, using fairly complex language in general situations and some complex language in their own field. They can use fluent and nuanced expression to engage with familiar topics and social communication, though some inaccuracies, inappropriacies, and misunderstandings may still be evident. They can effectively structure and communicate arguments, clearly articulate detailed information, and summarise or report on previous interactions. They can provide and transmit solutions to sometimes complex problems, demonstrating understanding of knowledge, with depth in some areas.	B2+
Proficient	Students have fully operational command of English. Communication is fluent and generally spontaneous. They can use language flexibly for social and professional purposes, with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies, or misunderstandings. They can engage with complex, lengthy texts on familiar and unfamiliar topics, understanding nuanced shades of meaning. They convey ideas clearly and precisely, cohesively and coherently organising information using various formats for various purposes.	C1
Superior	Students have fully operational command of English, demonstrating fluency and strong familiarity with natural expression. Any misunderstandings, inaccuracies, or inappropriacies are generally restricted to unfamiliar situations or contexts. They can engage with complex, lengthy texts on familiar and unfamiliar topics, locating directly stated information in a range of text types and identifying textual attitudes and opinions. They convey ideas clearly and precisely, cohesively and coherently organising information using various formats for various purposes. They can provide and transmit solutions to sometimes complex problems, demonstrating understanding of knowledge, with depth in some areas.	Mid-C1

Accepted evidence of English language proficiency

Applicants may demonstrate their level of English proficiency through one of the following methods accepted by the University:

- a. an approved English language proficiency test
- b. a recognized qualification with English as the language of instruction
- c. a Macquarie University College English Language Program (ELP)
- d. Other approved evidence deemed to satisfy minimum standards

Section 1: Approved English language tests

The following section outlines English language proficiency tests accepted by Macquarie University and the minimum test scores required to satisfy English entry standards to various courses.

The following English language tests are recognised by the University:

Acronym	Full Name
IELTS Academic	International English Language Testing System: Academic version
TOEFL iBT	Test of English as a Foreign Language: Internet-based Test
PTE Academic	Pearson Test of English Academic
C1A	Cambridge English C1 Advanced (previously CAE or Cambridge English: Advanced)
C2P	Cambridge English C2 Proficiency (previously CPE or Cambridge English: Proficiency)

Test validity period

Unless otherwise specified, all English language test scores must be less than two years old at the date of application for a Graduate Research course at the University.

Minimum test scores

To meet English proficiency requirements for a course, the following minimum scores must be achieved on the relevant test.

Academic IELTS						
Level of English	Overall	Reading	Writing	Listening	Speaking	For admission to
Competent English	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	Most Graduate Research courses
Proficient English	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	Graduate Research courses in Macquarie Law School
	7.0	6.5	7.0	6.5	6.5	Graduate Research courses in English Literature

TOEFL iBT						
Level of English	Overall	Reading	Writing	Listening	Speaking	For admission to
Competent English	83	13	21	12	18	Most Graduate Research courses
Proficient English	94	19	24	20	20	Graduate Research courses in Macquarie Law School
	94	19	27	20	20	Graduate Research courses in English Literature

PTE Academic						
Level of English	Overall	Reading	Writing	Listening	Speaking	For admission to
Competent English	58	52	52	52	52	Most Graduate Research courses
Proficient English	66	58	58	58	58	Graduate Research courses in Macquarie Law School
	66	58	66	58	58	Graduate Research courses in English Literature

Cambridge English (C1A or C2P)						
Level of English	Overall	Reading	Writing	Listening	Speaking	For admission to
Competent English	180	169	169	169	169	Most Graduate Research courses
Proficient English	185	176	176	176	176	Graduate Research courses in Macquarie Law School
	185	176	185	176	176	Graduate Research courses in English Literature

Section 2: Recognised study with English as the Language of Instruction

The University may accept as meeting English proficiency requirements:

- a. A minimum of five (5) years' study in one or more of the following countries:
 - i. Australia
 - ii. Canada
 - iii. New Zealand
 - iv. South Africa
 - v. Republic of Ireland
 - vi. United Kingdom
 - vii. United States of America
- b. Successful completion of a Bachelor's Degree in Australia (Australian Qualifications Framework AQF7) or higher, within two year of submitting your application.

Section 3: Macquarie University College English Language Programs (ELP)

Applicants who do not meet English Language requirements, but who otherwise meet academic entry requirements for a course, may be issued a packaged offer of study that includes an English Language Program (ELP) at the Macquarie University College. These programs enable students to meet English entry requirements to most courses at Macquarie University.

Provider & Course	Level of English	Program & requirement	For admission to
Macquarie University College English Language Programs	Competent English	Direct Entry Program - Minimum grade of Pass in the Overall Score and Pass in each skill component	Most Graduate Research courses

Section 4: Other approved evidence deemed to satisfy minimum standards

On a case-by-case basis, the University may accept other documentary evidence as meeting minimum English proficiency requirements up to the level of Competent English for admission to Graduate Research courses.

Competent English	A reference letter on official letterhead confirming a minimum of three (3) year working experience or equivalent in an approved English speaking country from their employer or equivalent, which states their position title, the duties they undertook and an idea of what level of English was spoken and how English was used in terms of written or verbal communication, for the endorsement of the Associate Dean (RTP) of the Faculty and recommendation to the GRA.	Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and United States of America
	Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.	

Status and Details

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