

# ETS Policy on English Language Entry Requirements

## 1. Purpose

1.1 All applicants to the Seminary will be asked to demonstrate a level of English language competency, irrespective of their nationality or country of residence.

1.2 This policy establishes a single, comprehensive position on how English language competence is assessed for entry to undergraduate and postgraduate study at ETS, to ensure a fair and transparent approach for all applicants.

1.2 The policy distinguishes between the assessment of English for admissions purposes, and to comply with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) Tier 4 regulations.

## 2. Scope

2.1 This policy applies to all applicants; undergraduate, postgraduate taught, postgraduate research, visiting students, and online learning.

## 3. General principles

3.1 The Seminary requires all students to demonstrate sufficient English language competence to undertake and derive full benefit from their chosen programme of study.

3.2 UKVI apply the visa regulations that the Seminary must adhere to in order to retain their Tier 4 sponsor licence, and applicants who require a Tier 4 visa to study in the UK must meet UKVI English language requirements for the Seminary to sponsor them.

3.3 The Seminary language entry requirements exceed Tier 4 visa requirements. Any margin of flexibility in Seminary's English language requirements for admissions purposes needs to remain above the UKVI requirement.

3.4 The English language qualifications and tests approved for entry have been assessed as meeting the standards in all four language competencies required by applicants who are not nationals of a majority English speaking country, as defined by UKVI, even if the qualifications do not explicitly provide an assessment outcome for each competency.

## 4. Undergraduate applicants

4.1 All undergraduate applicants must meet the Seminary's requirement for English language competence through an accepted English qualification.

4.2 The minimum grade or score required in an approved test or qualification will be determined by the programme, according to the level of English competence required. The English language requirement for the most commonly presented qualifications is included in the entry requirements section for each undergraduate degree programme on the ETS website, printed brochures and prospectuses. The current requirements are found in **Appendix 1**.

4.3 [Tier 4 requirements for undergraduate applicants](#)

4.4 Undergraduate applicants who require a Tier 4 visa must have an English qualification that is at an equivalent level to at least B2 on the Common European Framework for Reference (CEFR), unless they are a national of a majority English speaking country as defined by UKVI (see UKVI website for current list).

4.5 The English qualifications that the Seminary accepts from undergraduate applicants requiring a Tier 4 visa are listed on the English Language entry requirements page on the Seminary website: <https://www.ets.ac.uk/admissions/english-language-requirements/>

## 5. Postgraduate applicants

5.1 All postgraduate taught and postgraduate research applicants, whether they are studying on campus or online, must meet the Seminary's requirement for English language competence.

5.2 The minimum grade or score required in an approved test or qualification will be determined by the programme, according to the level of English competence required. The English language requirement for the most commonly presented qualifications is included in the entry requirements section for each undergraduate degree programme on the ETS website, printed brochures and prospectuses. The current requirements are found in **Appendix 1**.

5.3 Postgraduate applicants who are nationals of a majority English speaking country as defined by the UKVI, including the UK, will be deemed to meet the Seminary's requirements for English language competency on the basis of their previous undergraduate or postgraduate study which has been taught and assessed in English.

### 5.4 Tier 4 requirements for postgraduate applicants

5.5 Postgraduate applicants who require a Tier 4 visa must have an English qualification that is at an equivalent level to at least B2 on the Common European Framework for Reference (CEFR), unless they are a national of a majority English speaking country as defined by UKVI (see Appendix 1).

5.6 The English qualifications that the Seminary accepts from postgraduate applicants requiring a Tier 4 visa are listed on the English Language entry requirements page on the Seminary website: <https://www.ets.ac.uk/admissions/english-language-requirements/>

5.7 The Seminary accepts previous undergraduate or postgraduate degree-level study, including one year Masters programmes, which have been taught and assessed in English in a majority English speaking country, provided the award date is no more than three years prior to the start date of the programme. Applicants whose qualification is older than three years will be considered on a case by case basis.

## 8. Record keeping for applicants requiring a Tier 4 visa

8.1 Evidence of English language qualifications **must** be retained in the applicant's student record. This includes, for example, copies of English language test or qualification certificates, degree certificates from institutions designated by UKVI as majority English speaking countries, or scans of a passport photo page confirming nationality. In all cases, admissions staff should use the notes section on student record, to clearly state the evidence obtained. All records must be retained for 12 months following graduation.

## 9. Process for the consideration of flexibility

9.1 Applicants are expected to meet the English language requirements set out in this policy. However, the Seminary recognises that there may be occasions where an individual's circumstances justifies the consideration of additional information.

9.2 This process will involve Admission Staff who have interviewed the applicant and any flexibility must be approved by the Principal on behalf of the Senate.

## **10. Process for the assessment of qualifications for entry**

10.1 The minimum grade or score in an approved qualification required for entry to a specific programme will be determined by the Senate. In all cases this will be at or above the level required for Tier 4 purposes.

10.4 Lists of qualifications and tests accepted for undergraduate and postgraduate entry purposes will be published on the Seminary website and on the basis of decisions made by the Senate.

10.5 This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senate and revised in light of changes in legislation and Seminary's regulations and strategic objectives.

## **Appendix 1: Language Entry Requirements**

### ***Undergraduate Programmes***

For applicants whose first language is not English, the Seminary sets a minimum English Language proficiency level.

All students require to gain a Secure English Language Test (SELT) equivalent to a IELTS level as follows:

- overall score 6.5
- no sub-test less than 6.0
- or equivalent scores in another recognised qualification (see below)

### ***Postgraduate Programmes***

For applicants whose first language is not English, the Seminary sets a minimum English Language proficiency level.

All students require to gain a Secure English Language Test (SELT) equivalent to a IELTS level as follows:

- overall score 6.5
- no sub-test less than 6.0
- or equivalent scores in another recognised qualification (see below)