

# Harper Adams University English Language Policy

## 1. Purpose and scope

All prospective students intending to study at Harper Adams University must demonstrate to the University that their English language competence is at a sufficient level to allow them to participate fully in their chosen taught programme or field of research.

In addition to the University's own English language requirements set out below, as a Home Office approved Sponsor, the University must ensure that all students who require visa sponsorship meet the UKVI (United Kingdom Visa and Immigration) minimum English language requirements. Harper Adams University reserves the right to make its own assessment of an applicant's English Language ability and state if further evidence or additional study is required for entry onto one of our programmes.

English language entry requirements are additional to any subject-specific entry requirements relating to subjects, grades and/or work experience. Please check individual course pages/entry requirements for any specific English language requirements for individual course routes.

## 2. Standard minimum entry requirements (for direct entry)

The minimum standards for UK (and Republic of Ireland) applicants and for students who require visa sponsorship are listed below.

Table 1 - UK (and Republic of Ireland) applicants

Qualification	Minimum Score
GCSE English Language (pre-2017)	C
GCSE English Language (Wales)	C
GCSE English Language (England and Northern Ireland, post 2017)	4
SQA Scottish National 5 English	C
ROI Junior Certificate English Higher level (pre-2017)	C
ROI Junior Cycle English Higher level	Merit

Applicants who are unable to produce the above qualifications but who can evidence their language competence with an equivalent qualification taught solely in English with a grade at or above the level set out in Table 1 above and completed within five years prior to the start date of study, will be accepted. If the qualification was obtained more than five years prior to the start date of study, then the applicant may be required to provide additional supporting evidence – in the form of an employment/ academic reference supporting the applicant's continued language development.

Table 2 – Students who require visa sponsorship

Qualification	Minimum Score UG	Minimum Score PG	Comments
IELTS Academic *	6.0 overall (with no less than 5.5 in any component)	6.5 overall (with no less than 5.5 in any component)	<b>General IELTS is not accepted</b>
Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic *	60 (minimum 59 in any component)	64 (minimum 59 in any component)	<b>General PTE is not accepted/PTE Academic Online is not accepted</b>
LanguageCert Academic *	65 overall with no less than 60 in any component score	70 overall with no less than 60 in any component score	<b>SELT version only</b>
NCUK Password test *	Password 6.0 overall (with no less than 5.5 in any component)	Password 6.5 overall (with no less than 5.5 in any component)	
PSI Skills for English B2 *	Pass in all four components	Pass in all four components	<b>SELT version only</b>
Cambridge Advanced/ Proficiency	169 (minimum 162 in subtests)	174 (minimum 162 in subtests)	<b>Other Cambridge suite exams (KET/PET/FCE) are not accepted</b>
TOEFL iBT *	80 (minimum 18 reading, 17 Listening, 20 speaking, 17 writing)	88 (minimum 18 reading, 17 Listening, 20 speaking, 17 writing)	<b>iBT is the only form of TOEFL examination accepted. MyBest scores not accepted.</b>
International Baccalaureate (IB) Standard or Higher Level English Language and Literature Syllabus A	Grade 5 or above	Grade 5 or above	
International Baccalaureate (IB) Standard or Higher Level English Language Syllabus B	Grade 5 or above	Grade 5 or above	
iGCSE English (First Language)	C/4	C/4	
iGCSE English (Second Language)	B/6	B/6	
Botswana BGCSE	C	C	
Cameroon GCE O Level	C	C	
Kenya KCSE	B	B	

Qualification	Minimum Score UG	Minimum Score PG	Comments
Malawi School Certificate of Education	6 or above in English Language	6 or above in English Language	
South Africa National Senior Certificate – English Home Language	Grade 5	Grade 5	
West African Senior Schools Certificate (WAEC only)	C6 or above in English Language	C6 or above in English Language	<b>WAEC certificates must be in digital format where available</b>
Zambian General Certificate of Education	C/6 or above in English Language	C/6 or above in English Language	
Malaysian SPM 1119 (UCLES)	C/6C	C/6C	
Indian Standard XII	70% 75%	75% 80%	<b>CISCE and CBSE National Boards Other recognized State Boards, but excluding those from Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh</b>

Each of the tests marked with an \* in Table 2 must have been undertaken within the two years prior to the start date of study. If these tests were undertaken more than two years prior to the start date of study, the applicant will be required to provide additional supporting evidence – in the form of an employment/academic reference, MOI letter or other evidence of academic ability in the medium of English, supporting the applicant’s continued language development.

If any of the other qualifications listed above were obtained more than five years prior to the start date of study then the applicant will be required to provide additional supporting evidence – in the form of an employment/academic reference, MOI letter or other evidence of academic ability in the medium of English, supporting the applicant’s continued language development.

Qualifications not listed in the above table that are submitted as evidence of English language competence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and we reserve the right to make the final decision on acceptability.

Additionally, all students who require visa sponsorship are subject to an interview assessment of their language skills prior to confirmation of acceptance to study.

**Please note:** We will judge language competence based on an individual’s most recent accepted qualification.

### 3. Exemptions

#### 3.1 Exemptions by country

Speakers of English who are nationals of any country listed in Table 4 below are exempted from the requirement to demonstrate UKVI (United Kingdom Visa and Immigration) minimum English language requirements. However, such applicants will still need to satisfy the University that their English competence meets the minimum requirements set out in Table 1 above or equivalent.

Table 4: Exempted Countries

Antigua and Barbuda	Ireland
Australia	Jamaica
Bahamas	Malta
Barbados	New Zealand
Belize	St Kitts and Nevis
Canada	St Lucia
Dominica	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Grenada	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	United States of America
	United Kingdom (Including British Overseas Territories)

#### 3.2 Exemption by study in other HEIs

All applicants (including students who require visa sponsorship) who have completed a Bachelor or Master’s degree in any of the countries listed in Table 5 below, no more than five years prior to the start date of study, will not be required to produce further evidence of language competence. If the qualification was obtained more than five years prior to the start date of study then the applicant will be required to provide additional supporting evidence – in the form of an employment/academic reference, MOI letter or other evidence of academic ability in the medium of English, supporting the applicant’s continued language development.

Table 5: Exempted countries of study

Antigua and Barbuda	Jamaica
Australia	Malta
Bahamas	New Zealand
Barbados	St Kitts and Nevis
Belize	St Lucia
Dominica	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Grenada	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	United States of America
Ireland	United Kingdom

#### 3.3 Exemption by study at HAU

Students on joint UK-China programmes must pass an English Language credit-bearing module at Level 4 with at least 40% in all four components (equivalent to B2 level) to evidence their language competence for progression. Each component is mapped to a key skill (reading, writing, speaking and listening). Failure to achieve 40% in any component will require reassessment in that component. Failure to achieve an overall pass mark of 40% will require reassessment of all four components (regardless of individual component scores).

#### 4. Consideration of additional/exceptional evidence of language competence

The University will consider other evidence of language competence in support of an application (such as evidence of study at foundation or pre-sessional level at another HEI) on a case-by-case basis. A full internal assessment of such evidence will be made by the English Language Support Manager, and their decision is final.

#### 5. Pre-sessional course entrance requirements

##### 5.1 Context

Applicants who meet academic entry requirements, but whose English level does not meet the university's minimum entry requirements, may be invited to follow a pre-sessional course prior to study. These applicants must provide evidence of English level through a Secure English Language Test (SELT) prior to acceptance on the pre-sessional course. Such a course will only run if a sufficient number of students are enrolled.

##### 5.2 Language requirements

Language requirements for entry to a pre-sessional course at HAU are given in Table 6 below. No other qualifications are accepted.

Table 6: Minimum entry requirement for 6-week pre-sessional course

Applicants must meet the minimum entry requirement for the course through one of the following Secure English Language Tests (SELTs):

- IELTS for UKVI (Academic): 5.5 overall with no less than 5.0 in any component
- Trinity ISE II (Taken in UK).
- Pearson Test of English Academic for UKVI (59 overall with no less than 46 in any component)
- LanguageCert Academic SELT (60 overall with no less than 55 in any component)
- PSI Skills for English B2 SELT (pass in all four components)

#### 6. In-sessional support for all students using English as a second or other language (ESOL)

In-sessional support is offered to all students who use English as a second or other language. Sessions are not compulsory but are linked closely to key communication aims across the academic spectrum, with undergraduate classes focusing on core writing skills, final year

projects, critical thinking and presenting. Classes for taught postgraduate and postgraduate research students similarly focus on the key objectives of discussion, academic writing, critical thinking and analysis. In addition, individual tutorials play a key role in offering targeted in-session support to all ESOL students. These run from September–August and provide support for students across the undergraduate, taught postgraduate and postgraduate research communities.

## 7. Right to request a SELT

The University reserves the right to request a SELT from any applicant, regardless of the evidence they have provided in support of their application, in order to satisfy its own entry requirements or those of the UKVI.

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