

# English Language Policy



## 1. Purpose

This policy sets out the University's requirements and standards for evaluating the English language ability of all applicants, and provision for supporting students with their English language once they are registered.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all programmes leading to a Newcastle University award (including Credit Accumulation and Transfer qualifications and those offered by INTO Newcastle University and Newcastle University London) wherever these are delivered.

## 3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The University has a responsibility to ensure that all international students have the appropriate level of English language on entry, and support where necessary to succeed on their academic programmes.
- 3.2 INTO Newcastle University and the International Recruitment Team will provide advice on all matters relating to English language ability and proficiency.
- 3.3 The degree programmes to which higher or lower than standard University English language entry scores will apply, and the scores in each case, shall be determined by the relevant Faculty Education Committee or Graduate School Committee as appropriate, with advice from INTO Newcastle University and the International Recruitment Team. The lists of exceptions and scores shall be reviewed annually by the relevant Faculty Education Committee or Graduate School Committee at the penultimate full meeting of the academic year, before the beginning of each new admissions cycle. All scores must comply with the essential criteria (i.e. Home Office requirements) as set out in paragraph 4.4 below.
- 3.4 The Admissions Teams will monitor and ensure the implementation of this policy throughout the application and offer processes.
- 3.5 INTO Newcastle University will be responsible for testing the English language proficiency of relevant students at registration on behalf of Newcastle University and for reporting an analysis of the test results annually to University Education Committee, Faculty Education Committees and Graduate School Committees.
- 3.6 The relevant Degree Programme Director (or nominee), or the Supervisory Team in the case of PhD students, will monitor compliance with In-Sessional language training requirements in liaison with INTO Newcastle University.

- 3.7 The policy will be reviewed annually and the University's list of accepted English language tests and qualifications will be kept under continual review by the English Language Policy Working Group<sup>1</sup> which will be responsible for ensuring that the revised policy is made available on the University website.
- 3.8 Where there may be implications for the University's Student Visa Sponsor License, the recommendations of the English Language Policy Group will be considered for approval by the University Policy Group on Student Visa and Immigration.

#### **4. English Language Entry Requirements**

- 4.1 All applicants who are not from majority English speaking countries (Appendix A refers) must provide verifiable evidence of the required level of English language ability for their programme.
- 4.2 The University's standard level of English language ability required for entry to programmes leading to a Newcastle University award shall normally be IELTS 6.5<sup>2</sup>, with no component mark below IELTS 5.5.

The following exceptions to the University's standard level of English language ability are permitted:

- a) Entry into degree programmes in which credit-bearing English Language modules are part of the formal curriculum.
  - b) Entry to degree programmes where there is a significantly reduced demand for some aspects of English Language proficiency because of the scientific/mathematical nature of the coursework and assessment. In these circumstances entry may be set at IELTS 6.0, with no component mark below IELTS 5.5. Students entering on this basis may be required to attend In-Sessional English at the University.
  - c) Entry into 'Study Abroad' and non-Erasmus exchange programmes, where acquisition of English language proficiency may be part of the purpose of the programme.
  - d) Entry into degree programmes that require particular linguistic competence, which justifies the setting of a higher level of minimum proficiency. Examples include Speech and Language Sciences, Medicine, Law, English.
  - e) Entry to INTO Newcastle University pathway programmes in which credit-bearing English Language modules are part of the formal curriculum.
- 4.3 Information regarding the level of English language ability required for each programme is provided in the individual programme entries on Newcastle University's central website<sup>3</sup>.
- 4.4 In addition to the University's own English language requirements as set out in paragraph 4.2 above, as a Home Office approved Sponsor of Student Visas, the University must ensure that all students seeking admission meet the UK Visa and Immigration's (UKVI) minimum English language requirements:
- a) For qualifications at NQF level 6 (undergraduate degree level) or above this must be at a minimum of level B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in each of the

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<sup>1</sup>The English Language Policy Working Group includes members from: each Faculty (academic members); Learning and Teaching Development Service; Undergraduate Admissions team; Postgraduate Admissions team; Visa team; International Recruitment Team; INTO Newcastle University; Student Progress Service

<sup>2</sup>IELTS is the most widely used English Language assessment. IELTS is therefore referenced throughout this document - the University will however accept English Language qualifications equivalent to IELTS, provided the qualifications are formally recognised by the University (see Appendix B).

<sup>3</sup>[www.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.ncl.ac.uk)

four components of language learning (reading, writing, listening, speaking). IELTS 5.5 is deemed to demonstrate B2 level competence.

***Under no circumstances therefore will a student be given admission to a full degree programme at Newcastle University with a level of English Language below IELTS 5.5, or with a component mark lower than IELTS 5.5.***

- b) For qualifications below NQF level 6 (undergraduate degree level) this must be at a minimum of level B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in each of the four components of language learning (reading, writing, listening, speaking). IELTS 4.0 is deemed to demonstrate B1 level competence.

***Under no circumstances therefore will a student be given admission to any University programme with a level of English Language below IELTS 4.0, or with a component mark lower than IELTS 4.0.***

- 4.5 Applicants for whom the University has deemed their academic qualifications acceptable but whose language proficiency is below that required for a particular academic programme should receive a conditional offer. The conditions of the offer must include achievement of a minimum level in IELTS or equivalent test (see Appendix B) and, as an alternative where accepted, successful completion of the appropriate Pre-Sessional course in INTO Newcastle University. There are Faculty-wide normal minimum IELTS (or equivalent) requirements for entry to the Pre-Sessional courses, however there are some degree programmes that require a higher threshold for entry to Pre-Sessional programmes or for which Pre-sessional is not accepted.
- 4.6 Students who successfully complete the Pre-Sessional programme will be eligible to register with the University, provided other conditions are met. For those students who enter the Pre-Sessional with a score lower than 5.5 in one or more sub-components, successful completion will be dependent upon achieving this minimum score in each component in their final Pre-sessional tests prior to admission onto the degree programme.
- 4.7 Applicants who have not achieved the minimum IELTS or equivalent requirement for entry to a Pre-Sessional course will require a longer English Language programme in INTO Newcastle University or elsewhere. INTO Newcastle University publishes guidance on the length of language training required and can make specific recommendations where appropriate.
- 4.8 Exemptions to the English language requirements set out in the above paragraphs are listed in Appendix A.
- 4.9 Deans may also approve exemption from the normal language criterion for a given programme, provided they have sufficient evidence that the applicant in question does not fall below the minimum criteria for component marks set out in paragraph 4.4.

## **5. Accepted English language tests and qualifications**

- 5.1 A list of English language tests and qualifications accepted for admission to the majority of Newcastle University's degree programmes is available in Appendix B. An additional list of tests and qualifications that can be accepted for applicants who may not require a Student Visa is also provided in Appendix B. Some degree programmes, for example those that require particular linguistic competence, will only accept specific English language tests and/or qualifications, where this is the case information is provided in the individual programme entries on Newcastle University's central website<sup>4</sup>.

5.2 The validity period for each accepted English language test or qualification is included in Appendix B and is determined by the English Language Policy Working Group. If a test/qualification is a test of competence on a given day, it must have been taken within two years of the date of entry to the degree course applied for (***this has been extended from two years to three years for 2020 and 2021 entry due to Covid 19 and must be verifiable on the relevant official website***). If a test/qualification recognises a certain standard of achievement in an examination taken after a specific course of preparation, it must have been taken within three years of the date of entry to the degree course (***this has been extended from three years to four years for 2020 and 2021 entry due to Covid 19***).

## 6. English language support for registered students

6.1 All new students who are not nationals from a majority English speaking country (see Appendix A) shall be tested at registration to assess their level of English language proficiency. INTO Newcastle University will administer this assessment on behalf of Newcastle University using its own University English Language Assessment (UELA). This test will identify students who need support in one or more language skills so that recommendations about attendance at in-session classes are made at an early stage. Students may be exempted from this test on the following basis:

- a) Providing evidence of English language proficiency at the level of IELTS 7.0 in all four language skills (or in an equivalent test/qualification accepted by INTO Newcastle University)
- b) Other evidence provided on the Exemption Form and confirmed by INTO Newcastle University.

Exemptions from the UELA can only be granted by INTO Newcastle University on behalf of Newcastle University.

6.2 On the basis of the UELA, students may be required to undertake free In-Sessional language training. This could be via credit-bearing modules or non credit-bearing courses. Achievement of the desired level of attendance and participation, or proficiency, can be made a condition of satisfactory student progress by the Degree Programme Director or, in the case of a research student, by the Postgraduate Dean. The Degree Programme Director or Postgraduate Dean will communicate the requirement to the student in writing.

6.3 International students who have been exempted from the UELA will still be eligible to take the test and access English language support should they and/or their tutors/supervisors deem this necessary.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.ncl.ac.uk)

1. By Country

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

\*Non Canadian nationals who have studied in Canada must provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the degree was taught and assessed in the medium of English language.

- a) Speakers of English who are nationals from a majority English speaking country (as defined by the Home Office and listed above) are exempted from both the language conditions for entry set out in the policy and the University English Language Assessment (UELA)<sup>5</sup>. No language holds will be placed on the records of applicants from these countries.
- b) Applicants for a degree or higher qualification may also be exempt from the requirement to provide proof of their English language skills at the appropriate level (but not from the requirement to take the UELA) if, no more than 3 years (4 years for 2020 and 2021 academic year entry) before the date of entry to the degree programme applied for, they have:
  - i) successfully completed two full academic years of undergraduate degree level study in one of the countries listed above (applicants who have studied in Canada must also provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the degree was taught and assessed in the medium of English language). Applicants who require a Student Visa, must have been awarded an academic qualification equivalent to a UK Bachelors degree (see Appendix D) in one of the countries listed above
  - OR
  - ii) been awarded a masters qualification following 12 months of a masters degree level study in one of the countries listed above (applicants who have studied in Canada must also provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the degree was taught and assessed in the medium of English language). Applicants who require a Student Visa, must have been awarded an academic qualification equivalent to a UK Masters degree (see Appendix D) in one of the countries listed above.
  - OR
  - iii) been awarded a degree or degree level qualification which meets, or exceeds, the recognised standard of a UK bachelor’s degree; master’s degree or doctorate (as recognised by NARIC) and can provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the degree was taught and assessed in the medium of English language
- c) Applicants for Study Abroad and non-Erasmus exchange programmes, may be exempt from the requirement to provide proof of their English language skills at the appropriate level (but not from the requirement to take the UELA) if they have successfully completed two full academic years of undergraduate degree level study in one of the countries listed above immediately prior to their date of entry.

<sup>5</sup> International students who have been exempted from the UELA will still be eligible to take the test and access English language support should they and/or their tutors/supervisors deem this necessary.

*d) Brunei, Malaysia, Mauritius and Singapore - Undergraduate Applicants*

Applicants for undergraduate study who take pre-university qualifications in Brunei, Malaysia, Mauritius or Singapore will be exempted from the language conditions for entry set out in the policy (but not from the UELA) if:

i) they have a qualification on the University's list of English language qualifications acceptable for visa purposes (see Appendix B), followed by pre-University level qualifications taught and assessed in English

AND

ii) either the English language qualification was taken no more than five years before the date of entry to the degree programme applied for, or the pre-University level qualifications were taken no more than three years before the date of entry to the undergraduate degree programme applied for and the applicant is a national of the relevant country.

*e) Brunei, Malaysia, Mauritius and Singapore – Postgraduate Applicants*

Applicants for postgraduate study who have taken undergraduate degree qualifications in Brunei, Malaysia, Mauritius or Singapore will be exempted from the language conditions set out in the policy (but not from the UELA) if:

i) they have a qualification on the University's list of English language qualifications acceptable for visa purposes (see Appendix B) taken no more than five years before they commenced their undergraduate studies or their pre-University level qualifications were taken no more than three years before the date of entry to the undergraduate degree programme applied for and the applicant is a national of the relevant country.

AND

ii) their undergraduate degree level qualifications were taught and assessed in English, and completed within a reasonable timeframe (5 years) before the date of entry to the postgraduate degree programme applied for.

## **2. By Previous Study**

The following applicants for a degree or higher qualification are exempt from the requirement to provide proof of their English language skills at the appropriate level and from the requirement to take the UELA:

- a) Students applying for postgraduate entry to Newcastle after completing their undergraduate studies at Newcastle University International Singapore (NUIS) or Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed)
- b) Students who are transferring to Newcastle for the final year of a degree of which the first two years were studied at NUMed
- c) Students who are studying the MBBS programme at NUMed and either undertake a period of elective study at Newcastle as part of their MBBS degree or take advantage of an intercalation opportunity at Newcastle.

The University reserves the right to ask for a Secure English Language Test (SELT) if necessary to satisfy Home Office visa requirements.

Updated March 2020

Acceptable English Language Tests and Qualifications

Tests and Qualifications which are considered acceptable for admission to the majority of Newcastle University's degree programmes (unless otherwise stated)

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/ Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
IELTS for UKVI (Academic) <sup>1</sup>	Cambridge English Language Assessment/ British Council	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5 in each sub-skill	2 years before start of course <b>(3 years for 2020 and 2021 entry only<sup>4</sup>)</b>	
Integrated Skills in English	Trinity College London	ISE III or ISE IV	ISE III or ISE IV	ISE III or ISE IV	ISEII with a Pass in each sub-skill	2 years before start of course <b>(3 years for 2020 and 2021 entry only)</b>	
AS or A Level in English Language and/or Literature	All UK examination boards	C	C	C	Student must continue to be taught and assessed in the medium of English in pre-university qualifications. Validity 3 years <b>(4 years for 2020 and 2021 entry only)</b> before start of course.		
IELTS (Academic) <sup>1</sup>	Cambridge English Language Assessment/ British Council	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5 in each sub-skill	2 years before start of course <b>(3 years for 2020 and 2021 entry<sup>4</sup>)</b>	Non-UKVI approved centres

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
Test of English as a Foreign Language - TOEFL iBT® <sup>1</sup> <b><i>Including the TOEFL iBT® Special Home Edition</i></b>	Educational Testing Service (ETS)	100	90	79	Reading – 18 Writing – 17 Listening – 17 Speaking – 20	2 years before start of course <b><i>(3 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only<sup>4</sup>)</i></b>	Including the TOEFL iBT® Special Home Edition for 2020 & 2021 entry
Test of English as a Foreign Language TOEFL ITP Plus for China <sup>1</sup> <b><i>for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only</i></b>	Educational Testing Service (ETS)	627	610	580	Reading – 56 Writing – 53 Listening – 54 Speaking – 14	Only valid for entry in 2020 & 2021	The recording of the Vericant speaking interview will be assessed and scores by the University to provide the score for the Speaking sub-skill
Password Skills <sup>1</sup>	CRELLA (the Centre for Research in English Language Learning and Assessment)	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5 in each sub-skill	Only valid for entry in 2020 and 2021	For 2020 and 2021 entry applicants only. Test must be book through Newcastle University – see website for details.
Pearson Test of English Academic <sup>1</sup>	Pearson	69	62	54	51 in each sub-skill	2 years before start of course <b><i>(3 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only<sup>4</sup>)</i></b>	



Test/Qualification	Examination Board/Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
Business English Certificate Higher	Cambridge English Language Assessment	A	B	B	'Weak' in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	For Business students only
Certificate in Advanced English	Cambridge English Language Assessment	185	176	169	160 in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
Certificate of Proficiency in English	Cambridge English Language Assessment	185	176	169	160 in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
ESOL Skills for Life Level 2	Cambridge English Language Assessment	Pass	Pass	Pass	'Pass' required in each sub-skill. For Speaking & Listening: 'Borderline' required	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	Not to be confused with Skills for Life Entry qualifications
GCSE in English Language	All UK examination boards	C / 4	C / 4	C / 4	Student must continue to be taught and assessed in the medium of English in pre-university qualifications. Validity 3 years before start of course. <b>(4 years for 2020 and 2021 entry only)</b>		

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority	5	5	4	Minimum 4 in each element. IELTS 6.0 equivalent no more than 2 elements at 3, rest at 4.	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
Indian 12 <sup>th</sup> Standard Examination	CBSE/ISC (National Boards)	75%	75%	75%	Accepted provided pre-university qualifications or undergraduate degree has been delivered and assessed in English, and those qualifications were taken no more than 3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b> . If it is more than 3 years (4 years for 2020 & 2021 entry only) – additional Language Assessment (interview) required. A successful interview outcome will be valid for two years from the date of interview.		

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/ Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
International Baccalaureate English A: Literature and Language	International Baccalaureate Organisation	Standard Level: 5 Higher Level: 4	Standard Level: 5 Higher Level: 4	Standard Level: 5 Higher Level: 4	Not tested in each sub-skill	Validity 3 years before start of course ( <b>4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only</b> ). English taken in Language and Literature Group would be first language English and at a higher level than English Language B. English Literature and Performance not acceptable	
International Baccalaureate English Language B	International Baccalaureate Organisation	Standard Level: 6 Higher Level: 5	Standard Level: 6 Higher Level: 5	Standard Level: 6 Higher Level: 5	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	English Ab Initio Standard Level not considered.
International Baccalaureate English A: Literature	International Baccalaureate Organisation	Standard Level: 4	Standard Level: 4	Standard Level: 4	Not tested in each sub-skill	Validity 3 years before start of course ( <b>4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only</b> ) English taken in Language and Literature Group would be first language English and at a higher level than English Language B. English Literature and Performance not acceptable	

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/ Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) 0500 & 0522 (English 1st language)	Cambridge International Examinations	C	C	C	Where student has <u>not</u> continued to be taught and assessed in the medium of English in pre-university qualifications:  Reading – E Writing – E Speaking – D (0522) or 2 (0500) Listening – D (0522) or 2 (0500)	Validity 3 years before start of course ( <b>4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only</b> ).Where minimum sub-skills are needed, student must request the Supplementary Certifying Statement from Cambridge International Examinations - details can be found on their website <sup>2</sup>	
International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) 0510 & 0511 (English 2nd language)	Cambridge International Examinations	B	B	B	Where Student has not continued to be taught and assessed in the medium of English in pre-university qualifications:  Reading – D Writing – D Speaking – C (0511) or 2 (0510) Listening - A	Validity 3 years before start of course ( <b>4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only</b> ).Where minimum sub-skills are needed, student must request the Supplementary Certifying Statement from Cambridge International Examinations - details can be found on their website <sup>2</sup>	

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
INTO Newcastle/NU London English for Academic Purposes Assessment <sup>1</sup>	INTO Newcastle/NU London	70	65	60	55% in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
INTO Newcastle/NU London Pre-Sessional English Programme <sup>1</sup>	INTO Newcastle/NU London	70	65	60	55% in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
INTO English for Academic Purposes Assessment <sup>1</sup>	INTO UK Centres other than Newcastle	70	65	60	55% in each sub-skill	Validity 3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020&amp;2021 entry only)</b> . For entry to undergraduate degree programmes only and on a case by case basis only, and based on an admissions tutor's knowledge and experience of the INTO course being taken.	
INTO English Language Assessment (IELA) <sup>1</sup>	INTO and Cambridge English Language Assessment	185	176-184	169-175	162-168	2 years before start of course <b>(3 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	Taken at an INTO approved testing centre.
O Level English Language 1115, 1119, 1120, 1123, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128	Cambridge International Examinations	C	C	C	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course	

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/ Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
						<b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
Senior School Certificate Examination (WAEC/NECO) <sup>3</sup>	West African Exams Council (WAEC) / National Examinations Council (NECO)	C4 in English	C5 in English	C6 in English	Accepted provided pre-university qualifications or undergraduate degree has been delivered and assessed in English. <sup>3</sup>		
Singapore Integrated Programme	Singapore Ministry of Education	Achievement of conditions of offer	Achievement of conditions of offer	Achievement of conditions of offer	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	Achieving the required grades in the A levels / IB / National University of Singapore High School Diploma through the IP route is evidence of good English Language skills.

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<sup>1</sup> For programmes with specific sub-skill requirements – please see appendix C for list of sub-skill comparison scores.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-secondary-2/cambridge-igcse/recognition/>

<sup>3</sup>For applicants that require a Student Visa to study in the UK, where it has been more than three years since the completion of the qualifications delivered and assessed in English, a language interview will be required. This will not be a condition of any offer of study, it is only requirement for Student Visa sponsorship. A successful interview outcome will be valid for two years from the date of interview.

<sup>4</sup> Tests must be verifiable on the relevant official website

Tests and Qualifications which are considered acceptable for admission to the majority of Newcastle University's degree programmes for applicants who do not need a Student Visa , if a Student Visa is required an English Language Interview will be required if the test does not contain all 4 sub skills

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
iGCSE in English Language	All examination boards	C / 4	C / 4	C / 4	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
European Baccaulaureate (English 1st language)		7	6	6	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	English would be the mother tongue at a level comparable with GCE A level/IB Higher Level.
European Baccaulaureate (English 2nd language)		7	7	7	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
HKEAA Use of English	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority	B	C	C	Sub-skills assessed but not reported individually.	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 Entry only)</b>	The Board suggests that a D equates to an O level pass, but TOEFL published equivalents suggest that these grades are safer.

Test/Qualification	Examination Board/Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination in English Syllabus B	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority	A	B	B	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	The board suggests that a C grade on this exam equates to a D in the Use of English exam.
Denmark: Studentereksamen (Upper Secondary School Leaving Examination) Also: Hojere Forberedelseksamen (HF) (Higher Preparatory Examination) and Hojere Handelseksamen (HHX)		Grade 10 in English	Grade 10 in English	Grade 9 in English	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
Finland: Ylioppilastutkintotoimisto/ Studentexamensbetyg (Finnish National Matriculation)		5 (Magna cum Laude) in English	5 (Magna cum Laude) in English	5 (Magna cum Laude) in English	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
Norway: Vitnemål – videregående opplæring (School Leaving Certificate)		Grade 5 in English	Grade 4 in English	Grade 4 in English	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	



Test/Qualification	Examination Board/Organisation	Grade/Score for IELTS 7.0 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.5 equivalent	Grade/Score for IELTS 6.0 equivalent	Minimum Sub-skill requirements for visa purposes	Validity period	Comments
Sweden: Slutbetyg från Gymnasieskolan (School Leaving Certificate)		VG (Pass with distinction) in English	VG (Pass with distinction) in English	VG (Pass with distinction) in English	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	MVG (Pass with Special Distinction) in English, indicates exceptional performance.
Netherlands: VWO		Grade 8 in English	Grade 8 in English	Grade 8 in English	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
Germany: Abitur		Grade 11 in English	Grade 11 in English	Grade 11 in English	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	
France: French Baccalaureate		Grade 12 in English	Grade 12 in English	Grade 12 in English	Not tested in each sub-skill	3 years before start of course <b>(4 years for 2020 &amp; 2021 entry only)</b>	

Last updated: March 2021

**Appendix C –Language sub-skill comparison**

	<b>IELTS</b>	<b>TOEFL iBT</b>	<b>PTE Academic</b>	<b>INTO Newcastle English</b>	<b>IELA</b>	<b>Password</b>	<b>*TOEFL ITP® Plus for China</b>
Listening	5.5	17	51	55	162-168	5.5	54
Reading	5.5	18	51	55	162-168	5.5	56
Speaking	5.5	20	51	55	162-168	5.5	14
Writing	5.5	17	51	55	162-168	5.5	53
Listening	6.0	19	56	60	169-175	6.0	58
Reading	6.0	20	56	60	169-175	6.0	59
Speaking	6.0	22	56	60	169-175	6.0	15
Writing	6.0	20	56	60	169-175	6.0	57
Listening	6.5	21	62	65	176-184	6.5	61
Reading	6.5	22	62	65	176-184	6.5	61
Speaking	6.5	23	62	65	176-184	6.5	16
Writing	6.5	22	62	65	176-184	6.5	61
Listening	7.0	22	67	70	185	7.0	64
Reading	7.0	24	67	70	185	7.0	63
Speaking	7.0	25	67	70	185	7.0	17
Writing	7.0	24	67	70	185	7.0	64
Listening	7.5	24	72	75		7.5	67
Reading	7.5	26	72	75		7.5	66
Speaking	7.5	27	72	75		7.5	18
Writing	7.5	26	72	75		7.5	67

\*For TOEFL ITP the recording of the Vericant Speaking Interview is assessed and scored by the University.

UK Degree equivalence\* of academic qualifications completed in a Majority English-Speaking Country

Appendix D

Country	Bachelors Degree	Masters Degree
Antigua and Barbuda	CAPE and associate degree/diploma equivalent to GCE A level. No bachelors degree offered.	No masters degree offered
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard	Comparable to British Master's degree standard
Australia	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard. Bachelor Honours degree is considered comparable to British Bachelor (Honours) degree standard.	Comparable to British Master's degree standard
Canada	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard	Comparable to British Master's degree standard
Ireland	Ordinary Bachelor degree is considered comparable to British Bachelor (Ordinary) degree standard. Honours Bachelor degree is considered comparable to British Bachelor (Honours) degree standard.	Comparable to British Master's degree standard
Jamaica	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when accredited by the University Council of Jamaica, or when awarded by the Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica)	Comparable to British Master's degree standard (when accredited by the University Council of Jamaica)
New Zealand	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard	Comparable to British Master's degree standard
USA	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard	Comparable to British Master's degree standard
Guyana	Only Bachelor of Law / Medicine / Surgery or Dentistry are comparable to British Bachelor degree standard. In other disciplines, a Master's degree (preceded by a bachelors) is comparable to British Bachelor (Honours) degree standard.	NOT comparable
Barbados	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill or Barbados Community College)	Comparable to British Master's degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill)
Bahamas	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies)	No masters degree offered
Belize	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies). The University of Indianapolis, USA offers several programmes at Galen University and these programmes can be treated as USA degrees	No masters degree offered
Dominica	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies)	Comparable to British Master's degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies)
Grenada	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies)	Comparable to British Master's degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies). Some Master's degrees from St George's University are accredited by recognised US accreditation boards and can be treated in the same way as US Master's degrees
St Kitts and Nevis	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies)	Comparable to British Master's degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies)
St Lucia	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies)	Comparable to British Master's degree standard (when studied at The University of the West Indies)
Trinidad and Tobago	Comparable to British Bachelor degree standard (when awarded by a university or an institution accredited by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT), or when the programme has otherwise been approved by the ACTT. For a list of ACTT-approved programmes offered by non-accredited institutions please see Appendix 1)	Comparable to British Master's degree standard (when awarded by a university or an institution accredited by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT), or when the programme has otherwise been approved by the ACTT. For a list of ACTT-approved programmes offered by non-accredited institutions please see Appendix 1)

\*Verified through NARIC in April 2018. Review Date: April 2021