

English Language Proficiency Requirements for HDR Candidature

Table of Contents

1. Governing policy
2. Purpose
3. Minimum requirements
 - 3.1. Masters by Research degrees, PhDs, Professional Doctorates and Higher Doctorates
 - 3.2. PhD (Clinical Psychology)
 - 3.3. Currency of proficiency

1. Governing policy

[Higher Degrees by Research Policy](#)

2. Purpose

- a. This document sets out the minimum required English language proficiency requirements for admission to all candidatures for Flinders University higher degrees by research (HDRs).
- b. Further details about English language requirements are available on the University's [admissions](#) web pages.
- c. For applicants to a postgraduate coursework award course—see the [English Language Proficiency Requirements for Coursework Award Courses](#).

3. Minimum requirements

3.1. Masters by Research degrees, PhDs, Professional Doctorates and Higher Doctorates

The minimum English language proficiency requirement for admission to these degrees is one of the following:

- a. the applicant's first language is English
- b. the applicant has successfully completed their prior qualifying study in English, i.e., the applicant has:
 - i. an Australian tertiary qualification at AQF Level 8 or higher, or
 - ii. an equivalent tertiary qualification taught in the English language in a country where English is the official language or the main language spoken
- c. the applicant has sat an international English proficiency test, and has:
 - i. an overall academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) band score of at least 6.5 with a minimum score of 6.5 in the Writing components and 6.0 in all other components
 - ii. a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based test (iBT) of at least 80, with a minimum score of 22 in Writing and 18 in all other components
 - iii. a Pearson Test of English (PTE) score of at least 58 overall, with a minimum 58 in Writing, and 50 in all other components, or
 - iv. a Cambridge English: Advanced CAE grade of at least C

- d. the applicant has successfully completed an approved English language course from a registered English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) Provider or
- e. the applicant has an equivalent to one of the above requirements, as determined by the delegated authority specified in the [HDR Admission and Enrolment Procedures](#).

3.2. PhD (Clinical Psychology)

The minimum English language proficiency requirement for admission to this degree is one of the following:

- a. the applicant's first language is English
- b. the applicant has successfully completed their prior qualifying study in English, i.e., the applicant has:
 - i. an Australian tertiary qualification at AQF Level 8 or higher, or
 - ii. an equivalent tertiary qualification taught in the English language in a country where English is the official language or the main language spoken
- c. the applicant has sat an international English proficiency test, and has:
 - i. an overall academic IELTS band score of at least 7.0 with a minimum score of 7.0 in all components
 - ii. a TOEFL Internet-based test (iBT) of at least 94, with a minimum score of 27 in Writing, 24 in Reading and Listening, and 23 in Speaking, or
 - iii. a PTE score of at least 65 overall, with a minimum of 65 in each component
- d. the applicant has successfully completed an approved English language course from a registered English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) Provider, or
- e. the applicant has an equivalent to one of these requirements, as determined by the delegated authority specified in the [HDR Admission and Enrolment Procedures](#).

3.3. Currency of proficiency

- a. The evidence of proficiency under 3.1.b. or 3.2.b. must be no more than five years old on the proposed date of commencement of the course.
- b. The evidence of proficiency under 3.1.c. or d. or 3.2.c. or d. must be no more than two years old on the proposed date of commencement of the course.

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* Unless otherwise indicated, this procedure will still apply beyond the review date.

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