

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - LANGUAGE POLICY CHANGES

### What is changing in the language policy?

From January 2019 we will:

- Have the same requirements for registration and for initial teacher education
- Extend the range of recognised test providers to include:
  - Cambridge English exams B2 First (FCE)
  - Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic
  - TOEFL Internet-based test (iBT) and
  - Trinity ISE III (3)
- Accept tertiary qualifications from the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States and Canada as proof of competency; as well as from New Zealand and Australia
- Accept schooling in the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States and Canada as proof of competency; as well as in New Zealand and Australia
- Accept tertiary qualifications and schooling from South Africa where the person also has South African Matriculation Certificate Minimum D pass in English OR South African Senior Certificate Minimum D pass in English
- Recognise the Cambridge Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) and Trinity College London Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CertTESOL) as evidence

### Comparison chart

Previous approach - ITE	Previous approach - registration	New approach – ITE and registration
Question: is English an additional language? If yes, then:	Question: is English an additional language? If yes, then:	Question: can you provide one of the following types of evidence to demonstrate your English language competency?
You must obtain International English Language Testing System (IELTS): a minimum of 7 in each component of the Academic version of the test	You must obtain one of the following language test results:  International English Language Testing System (IELTS): a minimum of 7 in each component of the Academic version of the test  International Second Language Proficiency Rations (ISLPR): 4 in all modules	New Zealand University Entrance literacy credits at either NCEA level 2 or 3 <b>OR</b>  New Zealand University Entrance <b>OR</b>  New Zealand tertiary entrance qualification prior to current University Entrance <b>OR</b>  International Baccalaureate full diploma in English medium (24 points minimum) <b>OR</b>  Cambridge International Examinations minimum 120 points UCAS Tariff + CIE literacy requirements <b>OR</b>  All primary schooling and at least three years secondary schooling completed in the English language while living in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America or South Africa* <b>OR</b>



	<p>Certificate in Advanced English (CAE): a minimum score of 185, with no band score less than 185.</p> <p>Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): a minimum score of 185, with no band score less than 185.</p>	<p>Six years of education comprising secondary schooling to at least year 12 and at least two years of successful tertiary education, taught in English as the primary language of instruction and through face-to-face learning and assessment such as tutorials, presentations, seminars, and supervisory meetings and while living in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America or South Africa* <b>OR</b></p> <p>Bachelor's degree (with or without Honours), Master's degree or other qualification at NZQF level 7 or above which took two or more years of full-time study to complete and was taught in English as the primary language of instruction and through face-to-face learning and assessment such as tutorials, presentations, seminars, and supervisory meetings and was gained while living in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa.* <b>OR</b></p> <p>Cambridge Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) <b>OR</b></p> <p>Trinity College London Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CertTESOL) <b>OR</b></p> <p>International English Language Testing System (IELTS): a minimum of 7 in each component of the Academic version of the test <b>OR</b></p> <p>International Second Language Proficiency Rations (ISLPR): 4 in all modules <b>OR</b></p> <p>Cambridge English exams Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), B2 First (FCE) minimum score of 185, with no band score less than 185 <b>OR</b></p> <p>Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic minimum score of 65, with no band score less than 65 <b>OR</b></p> <p>TOEFL Internet-based test (iBT) minimum score of 94 <b>OR</b></p> <p>Trinity ISE III (3) pass with merit each band and overall</p>
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\* Candidates from South Africa must also provide South African Matriculation Certificate Minimum D pass in English OR South African Senior Certificate Minimum D pass in English



## Does this mean you are dropping the English language standard for overseas teachers?

We are maintaining the current English language competency standard. We are offering a range of other English language tests in addition to the IELTS test. All the tests require candidates to meet the same standard.

We are also shifting our approach so that we focus on evidence of English language proficiency and not on whether English is a first, second or one of many languages.

## What if my registration had previously been declined or closed? Does this mean I don't need to sit an English language competency test now?

You are welcome to resubmit your application. We will assess it based on our new approach, which will take into account a wider range of evidence of language proficiency. You may still need to sit an English language competency test.

## If my registration had previously been declined or closed, can I reopen it?

We will not reopen closed applications, but you are welcome to submit a new application. We will assess it based on our new approach, which will take into account a wider range of evidence of language proficiency.

You may still need to sit an English language competency test.

## I currently have an open application that was submitted with the Council before 1 January 2019. Can my application be held open so that my application can be considered under the language requirements that take effect from 1 January 2019?

Yes, we can hold your application open until the new year. You must still meet the language requirement and you will be required to provide evidence of your proficiency in either English or te reo Māori early in 2019.

## I'm booked in to do an IELTS test in December. Can I wait to do one of the new tests next year?

Of course. It is up to you which English language proficiency test you choose.

## Do the changes mean if I came to New Zealand to do my teacher training, I automatically get registration?

Your ITE provider must assess your English language competency using the evidence we specify.

ITE qualifications must still meet the right requirements to be considered as evidence of English language competency. They must be a Bachelor's degree (with or without Honours), Master's degree or other qualification at NZQF level 7 or above, which took two or more years of full-time study to complete. The qualification must have been taught in English and through face-to-face learning and assessment such as tutorials, presentations, seminars, and supervisory meetings.

## What is the difference between the IELTS test and the new tests?

There is no real difference, except they are offered by different providers. They all test reading, writing, listening and speaking. Some of the tests can be done online. All these tests are used and approved by other education agencies. The marks we are asking for have been assessed as being the same as level 7 in IELTS.

## Why have you chosen to accept tertiary qualifications and schooling from the United



## Kingdom, United States, Canada and Ireland?

The education systems and way they use English in these countries provide good evidence of the right level of English competency for teaching in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Do you recommend one test over another?

No, all test results require candidates to meet the same standard.

## What are the new tests?

The additional tests are TOEFL, Trinity, Pearson and one additional Cambridge test. They have been assessed and the level of competency they measure is the same as IELTS.

## What are the language test costs?

Costs for all existing and new tests are between \$350 and \$400.

## What if I still can't meet the requirements?

We will continue to operate our current exemptions system where, if a candidate believes they can provide evidence of their competency, which is not within our specified requirements, we will consider this evidence.

## So, you're not actually changing anything?

We are not lowering the English competency standard. However, we are offering people a wider range of test options to demonstrate this competency. People also now have more opportunities to provide us with evidence that they are proficient in English.

