

ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THEM

for MSc Programmes, Short and Online Courses

If you would like to study at UNESCO-IHE, there are fixed English-language requirements which you need to fulfil (1). You must have a recognised English qualification aligned with **CEFR (2) level B2** to successfully apply. The main certificates and minimum scores accepted are given below.

Qualification / Certificate	Minimum score accepted
IELTS (<i>International English Language Testing System</i>) Academic test	Band 6 overall (Band 6.5 is preferred)
TOEFL (<i>Test of English as a Foreign Language</i>) <i>internet-based test</i> iBT <i>paper-based test</i> PBT Note: PBT must include a TWE <i>Test of Written English</i> of score 4.5. [The IPT is not accepted.]	87 overall 502 overall + TWE 4.5
Cambridge ESOL (<i>English for Speakers of Other Languages</i>): <i>Certificate of Proficiency in English</i> CPE <i>Certificate of Advanced English</i> CAE <i>First Certificate in English</i> FCE <i>Business English Certificate (Higher)</i> BEC <i>Business English Certificate (Vantage)</i> BEC <i>Business Language Testing Service</i> BULATS	any 160 / Level B2 160 / Grade C 45 / Level B2 60 / Pass at Grade C 60 overall
TELC (<i>The European Language Certificates</i>) telc English B2, C1, C2	Pass
Michigan (<i>Cambridge Michigan</i>) <i>Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English</i> ECPE <i>Examination for the Certificate of Competency in English</i> ECCE MELAB	Low Pass, Pass, Honors Pass, Honors B2

- (1) As of October 2016, the English language requirements for the PhD Programmes are different from the English language requirements for the MSc Programmes, Short and Online Courses:
<http://www.unesco-ihe.org/english-language-requirements#PhD>
- (2) The Council of Europe's **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)** is an international standard for describing language ability. It is used worldwide to define language proficiency levels and to interpret language qualifications. The CEFR has six levels from A1 (the lowest) to C2 (the highest). Institutions, English programmes and learners can interpret the CEFR levels by referring to the global descriptors and other tables at
http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/elp/elp-reg/Source/Key_reference/Overview_CEFRscales_EN.pdf

MEASURES TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH and meet the requirements

As described on the website, you are advised to first assess your current English level by using the CEFR self-assessment grid and/or taking the free online dialang test. The advice here gives a number of suggestions to help you improve your English and reach the level required to pass the tests.

- **Take an English course**

To increase English skills to a level suitable for academic study, you are strongly advised to undertake an **intensive** English course at an official language school. Depending on your starting level, this may be for 3-12 months part-time or 1-3 months full-time. Choose a language school which offers courses leading to a specific (and recognised!) qualification, such as those in the table.

If there are no suitable language schools in your area, you might consider following an **online course**. If you search internet, you can find hundreds of options. Again, look for an organisation which offers courses leading to real qualifications, and check if the organisation providing the online courses is accredited by independent, external standard-setting agencies, for example: ITTA (International TESOL accrediting authority) or IADL (International Association of Distance Learning). Some suggestions:

- **Lingua Edge**. An accredited, high-quality language school.
<http://www.linguaedge.com/language-courses>
- **SelfAccess**. A good value-for-money option which offers specific exam-training courses for IELTS and TOEFL certificates. <http://www.selfaccess.com/>
- **Myngle**. Another good option, offering one-to-one tuition using Skype.
<http://myngle.com>

Another way to quickly improve your English is to attend a **residential school** in an English-speaking country. Check this website for some options:
<http://www.englishuk.com>. You can live with a British family during your study, which gives extra opportunity to practice and accelerates your learning even more.

- **Practice and Prepare For Tests**

In addition to language-school courses, many books and CDs are available for self-study and to practice for tests. If these are difficult to find in your country, you can order them from an internet bookstore, such as www.amazon.com

IELTS:

Focus on Academic Skills for IELTS (M Terry and J Wilson, Longman)

May be used for self-study. Provides practice of the four skills; language review for revision after each module; self-check progress tests for self-assessment.



Step up to IELTS (V Jakeman and C McDowell, CUP)

This course covers the skills and language essential for the IELTS exam, and provides students with tips and advice on how to maximise their band score.

Cambridge IELTS (different authors for 4 different books, CUP)

The self-study pack provides a book with answers and audio CD. Each book contains four complete practice tests for the IELTS academic module.

TOEFL:

Longman Preparation Course for TOEFL Test: iBT. Student book with CD-ROM and answer key, Second Edition (D Phillips, Longman)

This course gives you all the tools you need to succeed on the TOEFL integrated-skills test. It provides both a comprehensive language skills course and a wealth of practice for all sections of the test.

Longman Introductory Course for the TOEFL Test. Preparation for the Computer and Paper Tests, Second Edition (D Phillips, Longman)

Complete multimedia TOEFL course helps intermediate students prepare for both the paper and computer version.

Cambridge Preparation for the TOEFL Test with CD-ROM, 3rd ed (J Gear and R Gear)

This comprehensive test preparation course includes skill building exercises and practice tests all in one volume.

CAMBRIDGE ESOL:

If your English level is still rather low, it might be wise to aim for the FCE (*First Certificate in English*) before attempting the CAE exam.

New Progress to First Certificate (L Jones, CUP¹)

A clear and colourful course prepares students for the FCE exam. Available as a self-study edition with answer key and transcripts.

Fast Track to FCE (A Stanton and M Stephens, Longman)

Coverage of key topic areas, lots of related vocabulary and essential grammar work gives students everything they need for the exam.

Cambridge Grammar for First Certificate (L Hashemi and B Thomas, CUP)

Suitable for self-study, with audio CD. This book provides complete coverage of the grammar needed for the FCE exam. Develops listening skills at the same time.

Cambridge First Certificate in English CD-ROM (Cambridge ESOL and A Battersby, CUP) [Second edition plus tests]

A versatile way to practise for the FCE at your own pace, with sound, video and a range of tasks which cover all five papers.

¹ Cambridge University Press

Cambridge First Certificate in English (P Carne, L Hashemi and B Thomas, CUP)
Suitable for self-study. A set of seven books each containing four practice tests for the FCE exam. Available with answers.

Common Mistakes at First Certificate ... and how to avoid them (S Tayfour, CUP)
Based on analysis of real Cambridge ESOL exam scripts, these books provide a unique resource to highlight typical mistakes. Clear explanations, varied exam-style exercises and regular tests help learners get it right.

Fast Track to CAE (A Stanton and S Morris, Longman)
Advice and guidance on exam strategies, techniques and skills. Regular exam practice sections show progress.

The Cambridge CAE Course (M Spratt and L Taylor, CUP)
In addition to emphasis on skills development, this course focuses on other areas of language such as pronunciation, vocabulary, functional language and style. The self-study version contains notes on CAE exams, with study tips, answers and transcripts.

Common Mistakes at CAE ... and how to avoid them (D Powell, CUP)
Based on analysis of real Cambridge ESOL exam scripts, these books provide a unique resource to highlight typical mistakes.

Grammar and Vocabulary for Cambridge Advanced and Proficiency (R Side and G Wellman, Longman). Preparation book covers grammar and vocabulary essential for exam success. (With answer key)

For more information on CUP books or CDs, visit the website: www.cambridge.org/elt
See also: www.longman.com/exams and www.longman.com/toefl
See Longman's full online catalogue at <http://eltcatalogue.pearson.com>

- **Testing centres**

For IELTS, details of the test (dates, cost, etc) and a list of testing centres can be found at www.ielts.org or you can do this via the British Council <https://ielts.britishcouncil.org/>

Details of the TOEFL test can be found at www.ets.org/toefl

For detailed information about all University of Cambridge ESOL examinations and international testing centres, go to www.cambridgeesol.org

MORE RESOURCES FOR LEARNING ENGLISH

Grammar

English Grammar in Use (R Murphy, CUP)

The best-selling book on English grammar. It presents grammatical rules simply and clearly. With CD-ROM.

English Basics: A guide to grammar and writing (M Cholij and G Nagaraj, CUP)

A self-study reference and practice book which focuses on frequently encountered problems of grammar. Includes a full answer key.

Vocabulary

English Vocabulary in Use (various authors, CUP)

A well-designed series of self-help books at various levels. Expands your vocabulary in a wide range of (general) English subject areas.

Writing

Successful Academic Writing (A Gillet, A Hammond, M Martala, Pearson Longman)

An excellent self-study book which develops your ability to communicate your ideas and research fluently and successfully in writing.

Study Skills

The Study Skills Handbook (S Cottrell, Palgrave Macmillan)

Invaluable advice on topics such as time management, improving your memory, writing essays, revising for exams and critical analytical thinking.

Dictionaries (digital or paperback)

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary * **Highly Recommended!** *

Longman Contemporary Dictionary of English

Cambridge Learner's Dictionary

[Note that free online dictionaries have less functions]

- **internet**

A final possibility, though least reliable, is **self-study via internet**. Numerous websites now exist with information and guidance on English language learning.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/> * **Highly Recommended!** *

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/> * **Highly Recommended!** *

<http://www.englishlearner.com/>

<http://www.englishpage.com/>

Also, don't forget that the publishers of English course books often provide extra support and resources on their websites which are linked to specific books, offering online practice materials, exercises, etc. For example:

www.cambridge.org/elt

www.longman.com