



English language proficiency – Master’s programmes

For admission to most master’s programmes you must be proficient in English. You can find the exact language requirements for your chosen master’s programme in the [programme description](#).

English tests accepted

Results may not be more than two years old!

- [IELTS](#): academic modules only
 - We do **not** accept IELTS General Training or IELTS Indicator.
 - We are **not yet** able to accept the new [IELTSonline](#).
- [TOEFL](#): internet based (IBT)
 - We do **not** accept the following types of test: TOEFL My Best™ scores (multiple test scores combined), TOEFL Essentials™ or institutional tests such as ITP.
 - We can accept TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ or TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™ **in the following situations only**:
 - You are applying for a programme starting in Feb 2023, **or**
 - You took the test before 1 Sept 2022 (& it is not more than 2 years old), **or**
 - You are unable to take an in-person test on location because test centres in your region are closed due to COVID or inaccessible due to unsafe conditions.
- [Cambridge English Exam](#) C2 Proficiency or C1 Advanced, depending on admission criteria

Before taking your English test

Check that you are dealing with a genuine test centre. Unfortunately, fraudulent test centres and websites do exist. If in doubt, check directly with the central test organisation.

Note for Chinese students

Chinese students who need a [Nuffic certificate](#) should take either an IELTS or a TOEFL (internet based) test.

Score equivalency table

IELTS	Toefl (internet based)	Toefl component score	Cambridge C2 Proficiency (CPE), or C1 Advanced (CAE)	Cambridge component score
6.0	80	20	CPE, CAE	169
6.5	90	22	CPE/CAE 180	176
7.0	100	25	CPE/CAE 185	185
7.5	113	27	CPE/CAE 191	191



Exemptions

You can be exempted from submitting one of the above-mentioned English test results if:

- You have a diploma from an [International Baccalaureate® \(IB\) Diploma Programme \(DP\)](#) taught in English or with English A HL.
- You completed your secondary or higher education in the USA, the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada (except French-taught programmes in Canada) Singapore, South-Africa or Malta*.
**This includes diplomas that are issued by schools/institutions from the above-mentioned countries that are located abroad but are accredited as part of the education system in these countries.*
- At the discretion of the Board of Admissions, if you are a Dutch student with pre-university education (vwo) level English.
- For certain master’s programmes, you have an English-taught, university-level degree from a Dutch research university. Refer to the relevant programme description.

In exceptional cases, students who otherwise qualify for an exemption but whose application documents cast doubt on their English proficiency, may be asked to take an English test.

How to submit your test results

- Upload a copy of your test results in Leiden University’s online application portal (uSis).
- If you are permitted to submit a TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ or TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™ due to COVID closures or unsafe conditions (as specified under ‘Tests accepted’ above), also upload a document explaining the situation in your region.
- If you have a Cambridge certificate: indicate in Cambridge’s [Candidate Results Online Portal](#) that Leiden University should receive your test result.

If you have uploaded an IELTS or TOEFL IBT test result, no further action is required. We can verify your test result on the basis of your upload.