



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

- [IELTS](#): academic modules only
- [TOEFL](#): internet based
- [Cambridge English Exam](#)

Before taking your English test, always 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.

Other criteria

- Results may not be more than two years old.
- Institutional tests, such as ITP-TOEFL, cannot be accepted.
- 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	79	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 a (English-taught) [International Baccalaureate® \(IB\) Diploma Programme \(DP\)](#).
- You completed your secondary or higher education in the USA, the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia or Canada (except French-taught programmes in Canada).
- 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

1. Upload a copy of your test results in Leiden University’s online application portal (uSis).
2. For authentication purposes, do the following before the visa/residence permit application deadline (if applicable) or the start of your studies:
 - TOEFL: instruct ETS to send your original results report to Leiden University Admissions Office – institution code 0504.
 - Cambridge certificate: upload your Cambridge ID number and “secret number” (see the Candidate Results Online service) in Leiden University’s online application portal (uSis).
 - IELTS: a scanned exam result is sufficient - no further steps will be required.

Leiden University has strict measures in place for the verification of English language test results. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they submit only authentic test results.