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.
- **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.
  - *For admission to the academic year 2023-2024*, in the following circumstances we can accept the TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ or TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™: 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 situations.
  - *For admission to the academic year 2022-2023*, we can accept the TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ and the TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™ in all circumstances.
- **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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IELTS</th>
<th>Toefl (internet based)</th>
<th>Toefl component score</th>
<th>Cambridge C2 Proficiency (CPE), or C1 Advanced (CAE)</th>
<th>Cambridge component score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>CPE, CAE</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>CPE/CAE 180</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.0</td>
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<td>CPE/CAE 185</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>CPE/CAE 191</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Last updated: 16 September 2022
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).
- For academic year 2023-2024 only: if you are permitted to submit a TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ or TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™ according to the criteria stated under ‘English tests accepted’ (see page 1), also upload a document explaining the circumstances 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.