



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, on paper or on computer
 - We do **not** accept the [IELTS Academic Online](#).
 - We do **not** accept IELTS General Training or IELTS Indicator.
- [TOEFL](#): internet based (IBT)
 - We do **not** accept The TOEFL IBT Home Edition™ or the TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™, except in the following situations only:
 - *You took the test before 1 Sept 2022 (and it is not more than 2 years old), or*
 - *you are unable to take an in-person test on location because test centres are inaccessible or closed due to unsafe conditions in a country.*
 - 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.
- [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.

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 an [International Baccalaureate™ Diploma](#) (IB DP) taught in English or with English A HL.
- You completed your secondary or higher education in the USA, 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 elsewhere but are accredited as part of the education system in the above-mentioned 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 would like to submit a TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ or TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™ due to unsafe conditions (as specified under 'Tests accepted' above), also upload a document explaining the situation in your region so the university can verify if you qualify for this ruling.