Assessing English Language Proficiency of International Student

Policy & Procedure

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1. PURPOSE

Adequate English language ability is central to a student's chances of success in their chosen course. This policy sets out the English language proficiency requirements and assessment for admission to all of the Academy of Film, Theatre & Televisions (AFTT's) vocational courses.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all international applicants seeking entry into any program delivered by AFTT.

3. DEFINITIONS

All definitions are located in the *VET Glossary*.

4. POLICY

4.1 KEY REQUIREMENTS

To ensure students are sufficiently competent in the English language to participate effectively in their studies, AFTT's International Department will:

- Establish English language proficiency requirements in accordance with the specifications of external accreditation bodies, and in accordance with the program content
- Ensure students applying for admission are able to demonstrate each of the English language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) at a level required for admission to the relevant course
- Recognise that students have an adequate level of English to enable them to successfully engage with the academic content of the course or program.

4.2 MONITORING, REVIEW AND ASSURANCE

The Director of International Services is required to monitor the academic performance of international students and, where necessary, propose changes to English proficiency requirements and support. Proposed changes are first presented to the Campus Manager and the Chief Executive Officer.

5. PROCEDURE

AFTT's core English proficiency requirement for international students is that they satisfy the minimum English test levels specified below.
Alternatives are also listed below.

5.1 English Test Score requirements

IELTS	VET = Overall score of 5.5 with no single band score below 5.0
	HE = Overall score of 6.0 with no single band score below 5.5
TOEFL	iBT: 59 overall; minimum 17 in Writing
Pearson English Test	PTE: 46
Cambridge English Test	CAE with no band below 162

5.2 Alternative Evidence: Pathway courses

Students may demonstrate completion or minimum achievement in a pre-academic English course from an AFTT pathway partner.

Please contact AFTT directly for more details about the courses required at each institution:

- o Ability Education
- o ELS Universal English College
- o Embassy English
- o English Language Company
- o Holmes English Language College
- o ILSC Education Group
- o International House Sydney
- o Langports English Language College
- o Macquarie Education Group Australia (MEGA)
- o Navitas English

5.3 Alternative Evidence: Other

AFTT also recognises the following as having satisfied the normal English proficiency requirements for admission to our courses:

i.   Completion of one (1) year of full-time tertiary study in an English-speaking country or where the language of instruction was English;

ii. Completion of one (1) year of full-time study in a tertiary education program in Australia where the minimum entry requirement was evidenced to be an overall IELTS band score of not less than 5.0 (or equivalent);

iii. Completion of the final two (2) years of senior high school in an English-speaking country or where the language of instruction was English;

iv. Program-specific alternatives. Please refer to the table below.
     These alternatives are reviewed at the time of application.

Program	English language requirements
GCE A Levels	C grade or better in the General Paper
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Completion of IB program where the language of instruction was in English OR where the language of instruction was not in English, completion of English A2 or A1

5.4 Verification of English Proficiency results

The AFTT International Admissions and Inquiries Officer uses the ielts.ucles.org.uk portal to verify all IELTS results and ETS online TOEFL score verification system.

If English requirements have been met by participating in an English for Academic Purposes course delivered by an ELICOS package partner, they are required to confirm that the student has satisfied all requirements of the pathway course.

5.5 Student Interviews

The AFTT International Admissions and Inquiries Officer interviews all applicants who have entered the admissions process by video facility (online), or in person. This process gives AFTT an additional opportunity to check students' English verbal and aural proficiency. If, despite evidencing satisfactory English proficiency in an internationally benchmarked test, the student displays difficulty communicating in English, they will be referred to an ELICOS pathway partner for further testing. Interview details are noted on an Interview Form.

5.6 Strategies to ensure english testing results were not fraudulently obtained

The AFTT International Admissions and Inquiries Officer conducts the following:

- Cross-check passport and IELTS results photos (online and on paper results),
- Checking language proficiency in the mandatory interview,

- Conducting all interviews online or in person.

5.7 Action where fraud is detected
In such cases two course of action are taken:
- The applicant will not be offered a place in AFTT,
- We will report the fraud to DoHA within five (5) business days.

5.8 Arrangements for ensuring that english test scores are recorded on the CoE
IELTS scores are recorded on the CoE in the appropriate place. Test scores other than IELTS, such as those from ELICOS pathway course graduates and other measures of English proficiency, are identified on the CoE as:
"Student meets alternative English language requirements."

5.9 Strategies to ensure that international students continue to develop english language proficiency during their studies.
All international students are initially placed on AFTT's Support and Intervention Strategy (Refer to Academic Progression Policy). This strategy seeks to identify in the early part of a student's course any language difficulties or other learning obstacles that may impact on their ability to succeed in their course of study. Any identified language obstacles are then initially addressed through consultation sessions with a nominated Academic Support Officer as part of a Transition and Intervention Strategy. AFTT Academic and Admin team members will endeavour to provide substantial remedial support to struggling students and to regularly deliver learning support workshops.

International students who fail to overcome language difficulties after participating in one-on-one academic support sessions may then be referred to part-time ELICOS programs outside of the Academy. In extreme cases, AFTT will consider suspending the student's enrolment for one (1) term while they undertake full-time English for Academic Purposes study.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS
6.1 VET Glossary
6.2 Academic Progression Policy and Procedure

7. RELEVANT LEGISLATION
7.1. Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2025
7.2. Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015
7.3. ESOS National Code 2018
7.4. National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018
7.5. Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 (Cth)

8. POSITIONS RESPONSIBLE
8.1. International Department
8.2. Director of International Services
8.3. Campus Manager
8.4. Head/s of Department
8.5. Head of Student Services & Admin
8.6. Student Admissions
8.7. Administration

APPROVAL INFORMATION

Approval Authority	Quality Education and Risk Committee (QERC)
Health Check approval authority	AFTT CEO
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5.0	QERC	30/06/2025	01/07/2025	Std's for RTO's 2025	Current