

English Language Policy

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Related Policies/ Procedures:	<i>Mandatory Declarations Policy Practitioner Accreditation Policy ESSA Code of Professional Conduct & Ethical Practice</i>	Delegated Officer	<i>Regulations Officer</i>

English Language Policy

Policy Overview

The English Language Policy sets out the ESSA English Language requirements for individuals seeking accreditation with ESSA. The English language requirement is to ensure individuals have a minimum English language competency to practice safely and effectively as an exercise and sport science professional.

Non-compliance with this policy and associated policies and procedures may breach the ESSA Code of Professional Conduct and Ethical Practice and may attract disciplinary action.

Application/Scope

This policy applies to all individuals applying for initial accreditation with ESSA. It does not apply to students (enrolled in an exercise and sports science qualification) or to ESSA members.

Definitions

All terms are defined as per the ESSA glossary.

Board – means the Board of Exercise & Sports Science Australia

Organisation – means Exercise & Sports Science Australia

C1 Advanced – means Cambridge English: Advanced

Continuous tertiary study – means units were taken in each semester in succession, with no break from study apart from the education provider's scheduled holidays

Exempt country – means Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom or United States of America

IELTS – means the International English Language Testing System

Initial accreditation – means the first accreditation category gained from ESSA

One sitting – means the period of time set by the testing authority during which the test must be completed

Practice – means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a practitioner in their profession. Practice includes the direct provision of services to clients, and the use of professional knowledge and/or skill in a direct clinical or non-clinical way. This includes non-direct relationships with clients, such as working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles; and any other roles that impact on safe and effective delivery of exercise and sports science services

PTE Academic – means Pearson Test of English Academic

TOEFL iBT – means Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-Based Test

Two test sittings in a six-month period – means the dates of the sittings must not be more than six months apart

Policy

All individuals applying for initial accreditation with ESSA must show English language competency unless they meet an exemption.

An individual can demonstrate that they meet the English language requirement by completion of an accepted English language test, that is IELTS or equivalent (see Attachment 1) as follows:

1. The individual has achieved a minimum overall score of 7 and a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) in the IELTS academic module or equivalent (see Appendix 1) and meets the requirements for test results specified below in this policy:

a. i. The test results were obtained in one sitting.

OR

ii. The test results were obtained over a maximum of two sittings within a six-month period if a minimum overall score of IELTS 7 (or equivalent, such as IELTS One Skill Retake) was obtained in each sitting

AND

iii. A minimum of IELTS 7 (or equivalent) was obtained in each component across the two sittings.

AND

b. The test results were obtained:

i. Within the previous two years before the accreditation application. If an applicant relies on test results from two sittings, time begins to run from the date of the earlier sitting).

OR

ii. More than two years before the application if in the period since the test results were obtained the applicant has been in continuous practice or continuous tertiary study which began within 12 months of the date of the test in an exempt country in the exercise and sports science field.

The individual is responsible for any costs incurred for the sitting of the English language test/s.

The individual must make arrangements for the test results to be verified independently with the test provider and provide these with the accreditation application.

2. Individuals who meet one of the following exemptions do not need to show evidence of an accepted English language test:

a. The individual has completed at least two (2) years of secondary education in English in an exempt country and completed tertiary qualifications relevant to the accreditation sought with ESSA taught in English in an exempt country.

OR

b. The individual has completed at least six (6) years of full-time equivalent continuous study in English in an exempt country including tertiary qualifications relevant to the accreditation sought with ESSA.

OR

c. The individual has completed an ESSA-accredited course within two (2) years before the accreditation application is submitted to ESSA.

Appendix 1 – IELTS equivalency table

	IELTS	TOEFL iBT	PTE (Academic)	C1 (Advanced)
Overall	7	94	65	B (185)
Listening	7	24	65	B (185)
Speaking	7	23	65	B (185)
Reading	7	24	65	B (185)
Writing	7	27	65	B (185)

Policy Modification History *This section will be managed by the Operations Manager*

Date:	Version no.	Details:	Author/Reviewer
August 2017	1	New policy	
June 2018	2	Clause 2.1.4 updated	
August 2019	3	References to CAE updated	
December 2020	4	Major policy review	Standards Council
September 2023	5	Clause 1.a.ii updated	Standards Council

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