



English Language Policy

Version 1

ESSA:
EXERCISE & SPORTS SCIENCE AUSTRALIA

www.essa.org.au

English Language Policy

Approval Authority	<i>Professional Standards Advisory Council (PSAC)</i>
Date Approved	<i>August 2017</i>
Date Effective	<i>January 2018</i>
Date of Next Review	<i>January 2021</i>
Level of Policy	<i>Council</i>
Related Policies/ Procedures	<i>ESSA Code of Conduct and Professional Practice Course Accreditation Guide for Education Providers Practitioner Accreditation Policy Recency of Practice Policy Return to Practice Policy</i>
Designated Authority	<i>Professional Standards Advisory Council (PSAC)</i>
Responsible Officer	<i>Policy & Advocacy Unit Manager</i>
Policy Overview	<p><i>The English language policy sets out the ESSA English Language requirement for individuals seeking accreditation with ESSA in one or more accreditation categories. The English language requirement is a mechanism that enables the individual to demonstrate:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• their competence in speaking and communicating in English</i><i>• that their level of competence in English meets the level expected of a practicing exercise and sports science professional.</i> <p><i>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.</i></p>
Scope	<p><i>This policy applies to all individuals applying for initial accreditation with ESSA, or returning to practice from a leave of absence or a period of lapsed accreditation or a return from suspension, unless they meet an exemption criterion outlined in this document.</i></p> <p><i>It does not apply to students or to ESSA members.</i></p>
Definitions	<p><i>Amnesty</i> – means official exemption granted to a defined cohort of people by virtue of their membership of that cohort.</p> <p><i>CAE</i> – means Cambridge English: Advanced.</p> <p><i>Certified photocopy</i> – means a photocopy of an original document that has been authorised or stamped as being a true copy of the original by a person or agency recognised by the nation-state or country in which the applicant currently resides, or by a person authorised to witness a statutory declaration in Australia.</p> <p><i>Continuous study</i> – means subjects were taken in each semester in succession, with no break from study apart from the education provider’s scheduled holidays.</p> <p><i>Exempt Country</i> – means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• Australia</i><i>• Canada</i><i>• New Zealand</i>

- Republic of Ireland
- South Africa
- United Kingdom
- United States of America.

IELTS – means the International English Language Testing System, developed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, The British Council and IDP Education Australia; see www.ielts.org

International applicant – means an applicant who wholly or predominantly completed all or most of their tertiary studies in exercise and sports science outside Australia.

Lapsed accreditation – means non-renewed accreditation.

Lapsed membership – means non-renewed membership.

Leave of absence – means a formal break from membership and/or accreditation. Leave of absence may be taken for study, travel, parental leave or other reasons.

Native language – means the primary language that a person has grown up speaking from early childhood and in which formal education was delivered. In the case of bi- or multi-lingual individuals, native (birth) language means the predominant language the individual has grown up speaking from early childhood and the language in which formal education was delivered.

OET – means Occupational English Test.

One sitting – means the period of time set by the testing authority during which the test must be completed. For example, IELTS states that the listening, reading and writing components of the test must be completed on the same day. Depending on the test centre, the speaking test may be taken within a period up to seven days before or after the date on which the other components of the test are attempted. When completed, all of these components equate to one sitting of the test.

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, effective delivery of exercise and sports science services.

Primary language – means the language known best that is used for reading, writing, listening and speaking; the language the person is most comfortable with using.

PTE Academic – means Pearson Test of English Academic, <http://pearsonpte.com/>.

Six years (full-time equivalent) continuous education – means education over a period of six consecutive calendar years without a break from study apart from scheduled holidays.

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

Two sittings – means more than one but fewer than three attempts at a test whether complete or incomplete.

1. English Language level

- 1.1 Unless exempt (see 2.1) individuals applying for initial accreditation with ESSA or returning from a leave of absence, suspension or period of lapsed accreditation must show English language competence.
- 1.2 English language competence can be demonstrated by completion of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic or equivalent (see 1.3) at a level of 7 overall, for each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) as outlined in [Appendix 1](#), unless otherwise exempt.
- 1.3 Acceptable tests² of English language competence include:
 - 1.3.1 IELTS
 - 1.3.2 TOEFL iBT
 - 1.3.3 PTE Academic
 - 1.3.4 CAE.

Note: There is no suitable Occupational English Test (OET) for exercise and sports science professionals.
- 1.4 English language examination results^{2,3} must be obtained:
 - 1.4.1 in the previous two years
 - 1.4.2 in one sitting OR
 - 1.4.3. over a maximum of two sittings where the two sittings:
 - 1.4.3.1 are completed within a six-month period AND
 - 1.4.3.2 an overall level of IELTS 7 (or equivalent) is attained in each sitting AND
 - 1.4.3.3 a minimum of IELTS 7 (or equivalent) is achieved in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) over the two sittings.
- 1.5 Where the test result is obtained over two sittings, the two year period referred to in 1.4.1 begins on date of the first sitting.
- 1.6 The individual applying for accreditation or reaccreditation is responsible for any costs payable for sitting the English language test.
- 1.7 The applicant must make arrangements for test results to be provided directly to ESSA by secure internet login from the testing authority, by provision of a certified photocopy of the Official Statement of Results, or an alternative approved and secure method.

2. Exemption Criteria

- 2.1 The English language requirement does not apply when the applicant for accreditation or reaccreditation:
 - 2.1.1 can demonstrate their native/primary language is English or
 - 2.1.2 is from an exempt country and can demonstrate that they have satisfactorily completed at least six years full-time equivalent learning in an exempt country at secondary, vocational and/or tertiary level that included the tertiary qualification relevant to the accreditation(s) sought with ESSA, and the language of instruction was English or
 - 2.1.3 is from a non-exempt country but can demonstrate satisfactorily completing at least six years full-time equivalent of continuous learning in an exempt country at secondary, vocational and/or tertiary level that included the qualification(s) relevant to the accreditation(s) sought with ESSA; that the study was completed no more than two years before applying for accreditation with ESSA, and that the language of instruction was English.
 - 2.1.4 is from a non-exempt country and can demonstrate having previously met the IELTS (Academic module) test results or equivalent specified in this policy (see 1.2), but the results are more than two years old. However, the applicant can also demonstrate:
 - 2.1.4.1 continuous learning in a tertiary qualification relevant to the accreditation(s) sought with ESSA, that was commenced within 12 months of the test date (for a test result accrued from two sittings, time is calculated from the earlier sitting) and
 - 2.1.4.2 the application for accreditation is received at ESSA within 12 months of the relevant tertiary qualification being completed and

3. Return to Practice Provision

- 2.1.4.3 ongoing continuous employment that began within 12 months of the date of the test, in an exempt country and in a role or position that uses the qualification(s) for which ESSA accreditation is sought and the application for accreditation is received at ESSA within 12 months of the end of the most recent period of employment and
 - 2.1.4.4 ongoing recency of practice or continuous employment in an exempt country in a role or position that required the qualification(s) for which ESSA accreditation is sought, where employment began within 12 months of 2.1.4.1.
 - 2.1.5 is from an exempt country and can meet amnesty provisions for the accreditation sought with ESSA or
 - 2.1.6 is returning from a leave of absence, period of lapsed accreditation or period of suspension, was previously exempt from, or compliant with, the English Language Policy, and can demonstrate continuous exposure to an English language environment during the leave of absence, or period of suspension or lapsed accreditation or
 - 2.1.7 is returning from a leave of absence and did not previously have an English language requirement.
- 3.1 Where an applicant’s return to practice from a leave of absence, period of lapsed accreditation or suspension is subject only to demonstration of satisfactory English language proficiency, provisional accreditation status may be granted (at the discretion of ESSA for the purpose of demonstrating satisfactory English language proficiency) for a period of six months maximum from the date of provisional accreditation.

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

Date:	Version no.	Details:
August 2017	1	New policy

Appendix 1 – IELTS equivalency table¹

	IELTS	TOEFL iBT	PTE (Academic)	(CAE)
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)

References

1. Australian Government, Department of Immigration and Border Protection. *Which English language tests are accepted by the Department?* [Web pages] n.d. [cited 2017 June 24]; Available from: <http://www.border.gov.au/Lega/Lega/Form/Immi-FAQs/aelt>
2. AHPRA, Forum of Australian Health Professions Councils. *Accreditation under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act.* [Web page] 27 February 2012 [cited 2017 June 24]; Available from: www.ahpra.gov.au/education/accreditation-standards.aspx
3. Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). *Registration standard: English language skills.* [PDF/Word document] 2015 [cited 2017 24 June]; Available from: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Standards/English-language-skills.aspx>