



Study Abroad and Exchanges English Entry Requirements - 2023/24

In order to undertake an exchange programme at the University of Birmingham, Study Abroad and Exchange students will need to demonstrate a suitable level of English proficiency. As part of the nomination process, the institution will confirm the English level of the student on the nomination form.

Please note that no proof of English language proficiency is required from Irish nationals who are studying in UKVI recognised English Speaking Country.

To assess the student's English language level we will look at the following:

1. Students nominated from European Partners

1.a. Students who will be studying for six months or less

EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals who will be studying for six months or less do not require a visa before they travel for study in the UK and can use the e-gates to enter the UK at their port of entry. These students are still able to provide the qualifications in Table A below as evidence of their English proficiency.

- A) COUNTRY SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF ENGLISH LEVEL FOR EUROPEAN STUDENTS STUDYING FOR 6 MONTHS OR LESS or STUDYING FOR MORE THAN 6 MONTHS
- B) **Two year validity (taken in the last 2 years) is required for all English language certificates. However, country specific qualifications awarded during the academic examination period two years prior can be considered i.e approximately April to June;**
- C) **The two year validity rule also applies to students coming to UoB for more than 6 months – see Point 1.b for more details.**

TABLE A

Partner Country	Qualification	Minimum core/grade required in 'English'
Austria	Matura/Reifeprüfung	2 (written and oral)
Belgium	Getuigschrift Van Hoger Secundair Onderwijs/ Certificat d'Enseignement Secondaire Superieur/ Abschlusszeugnis der Oberstufe des Sekundarunterrichts	7.5 or 75%
Denmark	Studentereksamen	10
Finland	Ylioppilastutkinto/ Studentexamen	5
France	Baccalauréat	14/20
Germany	Abitur	10
Iceland	Studentsprof	8 (taken as a compulsory modern language)



Luxembourg	Examen de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires	45 (bien)
Netherlands	Voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs (vwo)	8
Norway	Vitnemål fra den Videregående Skole	3
Sweden	Fullständigt Slutbetyg från Gymnasieskolan/ Slutbetyg från Komvux/ Avgångsbetyg	15 / C
Switzerland	Certificat de Maturité Federale / Maturitätszeugnis/ Attestato Di Maturità	5
European Baccalaureate	6/10 in English Language I or 8/10 in English Language II	6 / 10 8 / 10
B2 Certificate from the Student's home institution	We can also accept an official certificate produced by the home institution. The B2 Certificate must be signed by the student's academic tutor, certifying that the student's standard of English is equivalent to the minimum of the B2 level based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. It must be produced on the home institution's letterhead and uploaded together with the application. A sample of B2 Certificate/letter can be downloaded from here. The B2 certificate/letter is also acceptable for non-EU/EEA students or Study Abroad Fee-paying students from European Institutions. -	

1.b. Students who will be studying for more than 6 months

Students who will be **studying for more than 6 months** are CAS requiring (they must apply for a visa under the Student Route). They can provide one of the qualifications listed in the Table A above as long as it isn't older than two years. If the qualification doesn't meet the two-year validity requirement, they must provide an **Approved English test** (e.g. IELTS or TOEFL).

Details of all qualifications accepted for students studying for more than 6 months are in Table B below or on our [website](#).

Note: B2 Certificate issued by the home university cannot be accepted for students who are coming to study for more than 6 months.

2. International Students from outside the Europe (studying for six months or less)

- International students who will be **studying for six months or less** require a Standard Visitor Visa for study in the UK.
- Unless they meet English proficiency as Nationals of a UKVI recognised English Speaking Country (as defined in point 3. below) these students will need to provide evidence of English from table B below.



- Nationals of a non-UKVI recognised English Speaking Country and who are already studying in a non-UKVI recognised English Speaking Country will need to provide an English language proficiency document from Table B.
- Nationals of a non-UKVI recognised English Speaking Country but who are already studying in a UKVI recognised English Speaking Country will **not** need to provide evidence of their English language proficiency.
- Students who currently study at the University of Nottingham at the Ningbo or Malaysia campuses also will not need to provide evidence of their English language proficiency.
- International students studying for six months or less who meet English proficiency as Nationals of a UKVI recognised English Speaking Country (as defined **by the UKVI at <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english>**) will not need to provide evidence of English from table B below. No proof of English language proficiency beyond confirmation of Nationality in the applicant's passport is required since English can be met under the 'Migrant from a Majority English Speaking Country' UKVI provision.
- International students studying for six months or less who are Nationals of a non-UKVI UoB recognised English Speaking Country (i.e. Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon (provided the student has studied under the British Education model), Canada, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, British Overseas Territories) but who are studying at a partner institution in a UKVI recognised English Speaking Country (<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english>) will **not** need to provide evidence of their English language proficiency.

3. International students from outside the Europe studying for more than 6 months

- If the student is a National of a recognised **English Speaking Country (as defined by the UKVI at <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english>)** no proof of English language proficiency beyond confirmation of Nationality in the applicant's passport is required since English can be met under the 'Migrant from a Majority English Speaking Country' UKVI provision.

Canadian Nationals are an exception: although Canada is not listed as an English-Speaking Country by the UKVI, we do not need a proof of English unless the student is taught in French. In this case a high school certificate should be submitted to demonstrate the student's English language proficiency.

- If the nationality of the student is from a country outside the [UKVI list](#), the student must provide one of the qualifications listed in **TABLE B**, including an [Approved English test](#) (e.g. IELTS or TOEFL), or a country specific qualifications, if accepted by the University of Birmingham. Please note **all qualifications must not be more than 2 academic years old at the start date of the UoB study period.**
- For those joining us for 2023, we will accept the following additional tests as evidence of English language proficiency: -



- IELTS indicator test
- TOEFL at home test
- PTE Academic Online

B) QUALIFICATIONS ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF ENGLISH FOR OVERSEAS AND EU/EEA CAS REQUIRING STUDENTS STUDYING FOR MORE THAN 6 MONTHS:

Information on your course grouping, please visit the University’s website at <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/entry-requirements/international-entry-requirements>

Qualification	Group A	Group B	Group C
IELTS (Academic version)	6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any Band	6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in any Band	7.0 overall with no less than 6.5 in any Band
TOEFL	80 overall with no less than 19 in Reading, 19 in Listening, 21 in Speaking and 19 in Writing	88 overall with no less than 21 in Reading, 20 in Listening, 22 in Speaking and 21 in Writing	95 overall with no less than 22 in any band
Pearson Test of English (PTE)	64 with no less than 59 in all four skills	67 with no less than 64 in all four skills	76 with no less than 67 in all four skills
Cambridge English (Advanced)	Advanced Minimum overall score of 169, with no less than 162 in any component	Advanced Minimum overall score of 176, with no less than 169 in any component	Advanced Minimum overall score of 185, with no less than 176 in any component
GCE O Level English	Grade C	Grade C	Grade C
GCSE or IGCSE English (Language or Literature)	Grade C/4	Grade C/4	Grade C/4
International Baccalaureate English	First or Second language English at Higher or Standard Level with a minimum grade 5.	First or Second language English at Higher or Standard Level with a minimum grade 5.	First or Second language English at Higher or Standard Level with a minimum grade 5.
Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education	Grade 6 or 3 in English	Grade 6 or 3 in English	Grade 6 or 3 in English



Qualification	Group A	Group B	Group C
Brunei/Cambridge GCE O Level	Grade C5 or C6 in English	Grade C5 or C6 in English	Grade C5 or C6 in English
Cameroon (British model of study only)	Grade C in English	Grade C in English	Grade C in English
Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) – English Language	Level 3 overall, with minimum of 3 in each band.	Level 4 overall, including a minimum of 3 bands at grade 4 and 1 band at grade 3.	Level 5 overall, including 2 bands at grade 5 and 2 bands at grade 4.
Indian Standard XII English	Minimum 75% in ISC, CBSE, Maharashtra or West Bengal Boards. Minimum 80% in other State boards.	Minimum 80% in ISC, CBSE or Maharashtra Boards. Minimum 75% in West Bengal Board. Minimum 85% in other State boards.	Minimum 85% in ISC, CBSE or Maharashtra Boards. Minimum 80% in West Bengal Board. Minimum 90% in other State boards.
Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)	Grade C in English	Grade C in English	Grade C in English
Malaysian Cambridge O Level 119 English - Not local SPM certificate.	Grade C in the SPM 119 English.	Grade C in the SPM 119 English.	Grade C in the SPM 119 English.
Mauritian Cambridge Higher School Certificate or GCE O Level	Grade C in English	Grade C in English	Grade C in English
Namibian Cambridge School Certificate, Cambridge Overseas School Certificate or GCE O Level	Grade C in English	Grade C in English	Grade C in English
Singaporean GCE O Level	Grade C5 or C6 in English	Grade C5 or C6 in English	Grade C5 or C6 in English
South African National Senior Certificate (SA NSC or IEB)	English at grade 5 or C	English at grade 5 or C	English at grade 5 or C



Qualification	Group A	Group B	Group C
Tanzanian Certificate of Secondary Education	Grade C in English	Grade C in English	Grade C in English
Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE)	Grade 6 in English (N.B. grade 1 is highest)	Grade 6 in English (N.B. grade 1 is highest)	Grade 6 in English (N.B. grade 1 is highest)
West African Senior School Certificate (Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone)	Grade C5 or C6 in English	Grade C5 or C6 in English	Grade C5 or C6 in English
Zambian School Certificate or General Certificate of Education	Grade 6 in English (N.B. grade 1 is highest)	Grade 6 in English (N.B. grade 1 is highest)	Grade 6 in English (N.B. grade 1 is highest)
Zimbabwe GCE O Level	Grade C in English	Grade C in English	Grade C in English

**Business School programmes require one of the following scores: A TOEFL score of 88 overall with a minimum of 22 in Writing and Speaking, an IELTS score of 6.5 overall with minimum of 6.5 in Writing and Speaking, a Pearson Test of English score of 67 overall, with 67 in Writing and Speaking, or a Cambridge English score of 176 overall with 176 in Writing and Speaking.*