

School of Physics Graduate Research Programmes

English-Language Entry Requirements

October, 2013

The official recommended English language requirements for admission to graduate studies in UCD may be found at: <http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/prospectivestudents/thinking-of-applying/>

To summarise:

... If your mother tongue is not English, or if you have not taken your undergraduate education in English, you will need to have passed an approved test before registering for a course.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	An average score of 6.5 over all components and a minimum of 6.0 in each band on the Academic Version
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	A minimum score of 600 with Test of Written English at 475+ A minimum score of 250 in the computer-based TOEFL A minimum score of 100 in the internet-based TOEFL (iBT)
Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC)	Not accepted
University of Cambridge	Advanced Certificate, Grade B (i.e. CEFR Level C1 or C2) Proficiency Certificate, Grade C (i.e. CEFR Level C1 or C2).

However, the School of Physics has reduced English-language test requirements for the admission of students who do not have English as their first language to graduate research programmes:

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	An average score of 6.0 over all components and a minimum of 5.5 in each band on the Academic Version
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	A minimum score of 550 in the paper-based test (PBT) A minimum score of 79 in the internet-based test (iBT)
Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC)	Not accepted
University of Cambridge	Advanced Certificate, Grade C (i.e. CEFR Level C1 or C2) Proficiency Certificate, Grade C (i.e. CEFR Level C1 or C2).

English-language admission requirements:

- If the prospective student's first language is not English, and they have not completed their undergraduate or a taught masters program through English, then they must have passed one of the English-language tests at the appropriate level, as described immediately above, before they can be admitted.

- The examination results must be less than 2 years old.
- Any student who meets the School of Physics requirement but not the UCD requirement must complete a 5-credit *English for Academic Purposes* module in the Applied Languages Center (ALC). This module can be taken as part of the student's 30-credit taught module requirement. For this course the student must undergo a placement test to assess their level of English so that they will be placed in a class at the appropriate level. This module must be successfully completed before the student can undergo the Stage 1 Transfer Assessment.
- We would encourage all graduate students who do not have English as their first language to consider taking the ALC *English for Academic Purposes* module for credit.
- Students should also consider the intensive pre-sessional language courses offered by the ALC in the weeks before term starts (additional fee implication)