

# English Language Competency Policy



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## Purpose and context

To be eligible for teacher or early childhood teacher registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT), a person must produce evidence of their ability to effectively communicate in English.

This policy sets out the criteria approved by the Minister for Education under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)*. The criteria are nationally consistent.

## Scope

This policy applies to applicants for provisional and full teacher or early childhood teacher registration.

## Relevant legislation and policy

- *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)*
- [VIT Qualification for Teacher Registration – Qualifications Policy](#)

## Statement of Policy

### 1.1. Requirements for provisional or full teacher registration

- 1.1.1. An applicant for teacher registration satisfies English language competence requirements if they provide evidence that their teacher education qualifications, consisting of four full years of higher education study that includes an approved initial teacher education program (or qualifications assessed as comparable), were undertaken in English in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada or the Republic of Ireland.
- 1.1.2. If an applicant cannot meet criterion 1.1, then they may provide evidence that they have undertaken an approved English language test as specified in section 1.3.

### 1.2. Requirements for provisional or full early childhood teacher registration

- 1.2.1. An applicant for early childhood teacher registration satisfies English language competence requirements if they provide evidence that their teacher education qualifications (ACECQA approved or assessed as equivalent) were undertaken in English in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada or the Republic of Ireland.
- 1.2.2. If an applicant for early childhood teacher registration cannot meet criterion 1.2, then they may provide evidence that they have undertaken an approved English language test as specified in section 1.3.

### 1.3. Approved English language tests and standards

- 1.3.1. **International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Academic)** – with a minimum of 7 in both reading and writing, and a minimum of 8 in speaking and listening. The IELTS must be taken at a test centre.
- 1.3.2. **International Second Language Proficiency Rating (ISLPR)** – with a standard of 4 in all areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing. ISLPR tests must be completed at an approved testing site where the assessment is teaching focused.

### 1.4. Evidence of approved English language tests and standards

- 1.4.1. English language test results can be completed over multiple test sittings of the same test, provided that none of the results are older than two years at the time of application for registration.
- 1.4.2. Results completed over multiple test sittings will only be accepted where acceptance is consistent with the guidelines set by the approved testing providers.

### 1.5. Costs

- 1.5.1. Any costs associated with the English language tests are the responsibility of the applicant.

### 1.6. Exceptional circumstances

- 1.6.1. An applicant who does not meet the ELC requirements as outlined in this policy may submit evidence of exceptional circumstances and request an exemption from completing an English language test.
- 1.6.2. Consideration of exceptional circumstances does not operate to lower the ELC requirements for registration. Its intent is to provide an option to applicants who can clearly demonstrate sufficient English language to be registered as a teacher or early childhood teacher.
- 1.6.3. The VIT's CEO may grant an applicant an exemption where it can be demonstrated that:
  - a. exceptional circumstances exist in relation to the applicant; and
  - b. the applicant's English language skills, both written and oral, are suitable for registration.
- 1.6.4. The exceptional circumstances provision is intended to provide an option to an applicant where it would be unreasonable for them to undertake a test to satisfy English language requirements where native, near native or fluent levels of English exist.
- 1.6.5. The onus is on the applicant to provide sufficient evidence to enable the CEO to grant an exemption.
- 1.6.6. Submitting a request for consideration of exceptional circumstances is not a guarantee that an exemption from completing an English language test will be granted.
- 1.6.7. The VIT reserves the ability to reject an application if the applicant has not demonstrated the ELC exemption requirements.

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