

# Qualification for Teacher Registration - English language competence policy

Last updated 30 July 2021

## PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

Sections 2.6.8(a)(ii)(B) and 2.6.12C(a)(ii)(B) of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* require that in order to be a registered teacher or early childhood teacher, a person must produce evidence that they satisfy the criteria approved by the Minister with regard to English language competence. The following criteria articulate this requirement and align with the nationally consistent approach to the registration of teachers and early childhood teachers.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to applicants for provisional or (full) teacher or early childhood teacher registration and permission to teach (PTT).

## DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Qualification	<p>Qualification for the purposes of the English language competency policy means a higher education award under the <i>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011</i> which is defined as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a diploma, advanced diploma, associate degree, bachelor degree, graduate certificate, graduate diploma, masters degree or doctoral degree;</li> <li>• a qualification covered by level 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 of the Australian Qualifications Framework; or</li> <li>• an award of a similar kind, or represented as being of a similar kind, to any of the above awards.</li> </ul> <p>Higher education awards are approved by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and can be delivered at a University or TAFE. Awards offered or conferred for the completion of a vocational education and training (VET) course may also be delivered at a TAFE but are accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). Such awards do not fall within the definition of a qualification for the purposes of the English language competency policy.</p>

## STATEMENT OF POLICY

### 1. Provisional or (full) teacher registration and permission to teach (PTT)

- 1.1. An applicant for provisional or (full) teacher registration or PTT satisfies English language competence if they provide evidence that their
  - 1.1.1. 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.
- 1.2. If an applicant for provisional or (full) teacher registration or PTT cannot meet criterion 1.1 then they may provide evidence that they have undertaken one of the following English language tests with achievement at the standard specified in section 3 below.

## **2. Provisional or (full) early childhood teacher registration**

- 2.1.** An applicant for early childhood teacher registration satisfies English language competence if they provide evidence that their
  - 2.1.1.** 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.
- 2.2.** If an applicant for early childhood teacher registration cannot meet criterion 2.1 then they may provide evidence that they have undertaken one of the following English language tests with achievement at the standard specified in section 3 below.

## **3. English language tests**

- 3.1.** International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - Academic module with an average band score of 7.5 across all four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing – where there is no score below 7 in any of the four skills areas and a score of no less than 8 in speaking and listening. All skill areas must be met on an individual test.
- 3.2.** International Second Language Proficiency Rating (ISLPR) with Level 4 in all four areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Test achievements are only deemed valid if provided by approved testing sites where the assessment is teaching focused.
- 3.3.** The date of the English language test results must be no more than 2 years prior to the date of application for registration.

## **4. Exceptional circumstances**

In exceptional circumstances, PTT for languages other than English (LOTE) may be granted at a lesser level of competence in the English language than required at 1.2 (inclusive of Victorian School of Languages and Auslan programs).

Where persons granted PTT under 'exceptional circumstances' subsequently become eligible for provisional or (full) registration, they will be required to meet the English language requirements prescribed at 1.1 or 1.2.

## **5. Costs**

Any costs associated with the English language tests will be the responsibility of the applicant.

## **RELATED LEGISLATION, POLICY AND DOCUMENTS**

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

