



# English Language Requirements Policy

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 It is essential that all students have a good command of the English language to benefit from their studies at the School.
- 1.2 As part of the application process, applicants are required to demonstrate how they meet the School's minimum English language requirements. This is particularly important for applicants requiring a Student Visa, as the [UK Home Office](#) requires every student from outside the UK and Ireland to show evidence of a minimum level of English language ability (called CEFR<sup>1</sup> B2 level), in order for a Student visa to be issued for entry to the UK.
- 1.3 Additionally, the School asks applicants to have minimum English language proficiency levels that are necessary for our academic programmes. These levels are higher than the CEFR B2 minimum level.
- 1.4 The academic English language requirements for each of the School's programmes are categorised into one of three profiles:<sup>2</sup>
  - Band A (highest requirement)
  - Band B (standard requirement)
  - Band C (lowest requirement)

Please refer to the appropriate [Course Description](#) pages for the English language requirement Bands of specific programmes.

## 2. Exemptions

- 2.1 Applicants who are a national of a majority English-speaking country or who have successfully completed an appropriate academic qualification (assessed by [UK ENIC](#) as equivalent to a UK Bachelor's degree), which was taught in a majority English speaking country from the [UKVI approved country list](#), automatically meet the School's English Language requirements.

Please note that Canadian nationals are exempt from meeting English Language requirements but non-Canadian nationals who have studied in Canada are still required to meet the English Language requirements for their preferred programme due to Home Office regulations.

- 2.2 Applicants studying on the following 'assessed' Short Courses **only** will not be required to take an English language test if they have 18 months experience working for the NHS.
  - Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing
  - Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & International Health (London)
  - Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & International Health (East African Partnership)
  - Professional Certificate in Pharmacoepidemiology & Pharmacovigilance

<sup>1</sup> Common European Framework for Languages

<sup>2</sup> See Section 3.5 for details

2.3 Applicants applying to study the intensive online MSc Sexual & Reproductive Health Policy and Programming **only** will not be required to take an English language test if they have successfully completed a degree-level course which meets all of the following criteria:

- full-time;
- at least nine months long;
- assessed by [UK ENIC](#) as comparable to a UK Bachelor (Honours) Degree;
- undertaken at a [UK ENIC](#) recognised institution where the medium of instruction and assessment throughout the course is entirely in English;
- completed with a gap of no more than ten academic years before the start date of the course.

This concession only applies to MSc Sexual & Reproductive Health Policy and Programming.

### 3. Proficiency Tests

3.1 The School accepts the following English proficiency tests:

- [IELTS Academic](#)<sup>3</sup>
- [Pearson PTE Academic](#)

3.2 Applicants requiring a Student visa are strongly recommended to obtain one of these English proficiency tests, as other tests may not meet the minimum requirements to support a visa application. Applicants taking alternative English tests should contact [admissions@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@lshtm.ac.uk) for advice.

3.3 The School will only accept proficiency tests that were completed and passed within two years of the start of the programme. English tests taken prior to this date will not be considered as valid.

3.4 The School does not combine scores from multiple tests.

3.5 The School requires the following minimum proficiency test scores:

|                             | <b>Band A</b>                          | <b>Band B</b>                          | <b>Band C</b>                          |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>IELTS Academic</b>       | 7.5 overall with 7.0 in each component | 7.0 overall with 6.5 in each component | 6.5 overall with 6.0 in each component |
| <b>Pearson PTE Academic</b> | 80 overall with 80 in each component   | 76 with 76 in each component           | 59 with 59 in each component           |

### 4. Appeals

4.1 If an offer-holder believes that they should not be required to take an English language test (and does not require a specific English language qualification to support an application for a Student visa), they may appeal the English Language condition of their Offer of Admission.

4.2 Appeals should be emailed to [admissions@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@lshtm.ac.uk) as a written statement outlining the reasons for exemption. Supporting documentary evidence of any previous education, professional work or published

<sup>3</sup> IELTTS General Training is **not** accepted.

work which demonstrates proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening in English should be attached.

The appeal will be reviewed by the Admissions Manager, MSc Programme Director or Research Supervisor, MSc Taught Programme Director or Faculty Research Degrees Director, and Head of Admissions.

If the appeal is accepted, the English Language offer condition will be met. If the appeal is rejected, the English Language requirement will remain as a condition of the Offer of Admission.

4.3 English language appeals may only be submitted after an offer has been issued.

## **5. Enquiries**

5.1 Applicants with any queries related to LSHTM's English language requirements, or the validity of a current English language proficiency test or qualification, should contact Admissions at [admissions@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@lshtm.ac.uk).