

UAC/ 10/11/2011/ LANGUAGE CENTRE

1st Update & Revision: 15 March 2016

2nd Update & Revision: 29 June 2016 (Special UAC)

English language requirements for Admission into UBD

- The default benchmark for entry into UBD is GCE O Level English language Grade C6.
- Other major English language proficiency exams deemed as equivalent to GCE O Level English Grade C6:
 - UBD English Proficiency Test (UBD-EPT) Grade B2
 - UBD Bridging English Course (UBD-BEC) Grade PASS ○
IELTS (ACADEMIC) Points: 6.0
 - TOEFL Points: 550
- SPECIAL UAC (29 June 2016) approved that expiration dates would not normally apply to all the examinations/ tests mentioned above or their equivalents for the purpose of UBD admission. But UBD reserves the right to request an updated qualification.
- All other tests/ examinations equivalencies are checked against the GCE O Level as the Default.
- This document was prepared after comparisons of the listed examinations and tests, and their acceptability by various British, American, Canadian, Australian, Singaporean and Hong Kong universities (including Oxford, Cambridge, Cardiff, Leicester, ANU, NUS, HKU) and International examination and English language testing boards (Australia Govt, TESL, Russell group, ETS USA).
- Acceptable minimum qualifications are shown below as “equivalent” to GCE O Level C6, but individual programmes/ faculties may require a higher minimum level due to the nature of their subject areas/ specialisations/ and they may ask for additional proofs of English proficiency. Faculties must communicate their specific requirements clearly to the applicants.
- Senate (UGSC) may admit graduate applicants without proof of English proficiency if the candidate has a strong academic background, good research proposal and has passed the interview especially if he/she has demonstrated a good command of English. Under such circumstances, the applicant must undertake the UBD English Proficiency Test (UBD-EPT) upon arrival. However, should the candidate not pass the test, the candidate must successfully complete relevant modules or courses offered by the UBD Language Centre.
- Proof of English proficiency is not required for applicants who hold a degree from a recognised institution (subject to approval by Senate (UGSC)) in a country where the majority are native English speaking (including but not limited to Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines,

Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (refer to: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/english-speaking-countries>).

- Applicants from countries other than these (and whose qualifications are not in the list below) should be advised to take one of those examinations listed below (preference for IELTS or TOEFL due to accessibility worldwide).

Alternative English language qualifications

UBD Qualifications

Exam	Result
UBD ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST (UBD-EPT)	UBD-EPT PASSING MARK IS 60% OVERALL (GRADE B2) Overall score of 60% or above with at least 53% in each component (65% – 70% with at least 60% in written component for courses where a higher standard of English is required)
UBD BRIDGING ENGLISH COURSE (UBD-BEC)	PASS GRADE Overall score of 60% as minimum pass.

UK & Ireland Qualifications

Qualification	Minimum Result equivalent to GCE O Level English Language Grade C6
GCSE English (English Language, but not usually English Literature) London/ Edexcel/ Cambridge	Grade C
IGCSE English Language (as a First language) London/ Edexcel/ Cambridge	Grade C
IGCSE English Language (as a <u>Second language</u>) London/ Edexcel/ Cambridge	Grade B
GCE O Level English Language London/ Edexcel/ Cambridge (including Brunei-Cambridge)	Grade C
GCE AS Level English Language London/ Edexcel/ Cambridge (including Brunei-Cambridge)	Grade C

GCE A Level English Language London/ Edexcel/ Cambridge (including Brunei-Cambridge)	Grade C
GCE A Level General Studies/ General Paper London/ Edexcel/ Cambridge (including Brunei-Cambridge)	Grade C
Scottish Certificate of Education, Standard Grade English	Grade C
Scottish Certificate of Education, Higher Grade English	Grade C
Irish Leaving Certificate, Ordinary Level English	Grade C
Irish Leaving Certificate, Higher Level English	Grade C
Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE)	Grade C
Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)	Grade C

International Tests in English

Qualification	Minimum Result equivalent to GCE O Level English Language Grade C6
International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) ACADEMIC	Overall score of 6.0 with at least 5.5 in each component (6.5-7.0 with at least 6.0 in written component for courses where a higher standard of English is required).
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): TOEFL Paper-Based Test (PBT)	Overall score of 550 Note: No oral component in this test.
TOEFL Internet-Based Test (IBT)	Overall score of 60-78 Note: IBT is the only TOEFL qualification with Oral component.
TOEFL Computer-based Test (CBT).	Min. 183 – 210 [Top score: 300] Notes: i. No Oral component to the test. <u>Discontinued Sept 2006.</u>
Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)	Overall score of 54, with at least 51 in each component (61 - 68 in each component for courses where a higher standard of English is required)
International Baccalaureate (IB) Standard Level English	Grade 4
NEAB University Entrance Test in English	Pass
Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)	Grade C
Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)	Grade C
Oxford Higher Level Certificate	Pass

London Examinations Certificate of Attainment	Level 4
NCUK International Foundation Year: English for Academic Purposes Module	Grade C
European Baccalaureate (English)	60% Mark

Other International qualifications

Qualification	Minimum Result equivalent to GCE O Level English Language Grade C6
Cameroon GCE O Level	Grade C
Caribbean Examination Council General Proficiency	Grade I and II
French Baccalaureate l'Option Internationale, English	Grade 11
German Abitur, English	Grade 11
Hong Kong Use of English	Grade D
Indian Standard XII	70% in the English component
Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)	Grade B
Malaysian 1119 syllabus (UCLES)	Grade C
Netherlands VWO, English	Grade 7
Norwegian Vitnemål, English	Grade 4
Singapore GCE O Level	Grade C
Singapore Computerised English Language Proficiency Test (CELPT)	Grade 6.5
Sri Lanka GCE O Level	Credit
Swedish Fullständigt från Gymnasieskolan, English	Grade VG (Very Good)
Uganda Certificate of Education	Grade 6
West African Examinations Council School Certificate (WAEC SSCE)	Grade 6/C Note: In West African Examinations Council School Certificate a lower grade indicates higher achievement (i.e. 5 is better than 6)
Zambian Secondary School Certificate	Grade 6

Test of English International Communication (TOEIC)	Min. 605 – 780 [Top Score: 990]
CEFR (Common European Reference for Language) by Cambridge ESOL	Min. B2. [Top score: C2]
Vancouver English Centre (VEC), Canada.	Min. 11-12. [Top score: 15]
Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (SSCE) (also known as: Australian Capital Territory - ACT Year 12 Certificate; New South Wales - NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC); Northern Territory - Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE); Queensland - Senior Certificate; South Australia - South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE); Tasmania - Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE); Victoria - Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE); Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL); Western Australia - Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).	ACT result of at least 170 in ESL T major or a PASS result in an English T Major. Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) – raw unscaled score of at least 30 in English as an Alternative Language (EAL); or English as a Second Language (ESL); or 25 in units 3 and 4 in any other VCE English subject.

- **Qualifications not accepted**

- Please note that we are unable to accept some qualifications as meeting the English language entry requirements as including:

- IELTS General (This is meant for Work placement or immigration purposes only)

- TFL TOEFL-ITP (Institutional TOEFL Program).

-Not accepted except when the actual course is taught in UBD and the test series is administered in UBD. From ETS website: The two tests are used for separate purposes and administered differently. The TOEFL iBT® test is a high-stakes assessment administered by ETS. Institutions use TOEFL test scores to make high-stakes decisions, such as university-level student admissions. TOEFL ITP tests are administered by institutions or our ETS preferred network and used for specific purposes including placement, monitoring progress and more.)

- Anglia Examinations in English

- Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE)
- Cambridge Preliminary English Test (PET)
- Key English Test (KET)
- London Chamber of Commerce: English for Business
- Malaysian Certificate of Educational English Language
- Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency
- Oxford International Business English Certificate
- Pitman English for Business Communications
- Singapore Cambridge Bahasa Inggeris (as opposed to the subject English Language)
- Sijil Tinggi Pengajian Ugama Brunei (STPUB) Bahasa Inggeris
- STPM (Malaysia) Bahasa Inggeris or English Language
- STPUM (Malaysia) Bahasa Inggeris or English Language