

## English Language Proficiency Requirement (Do I need to take the TOEFL or IELTS exam?)

### Undergraduate or Postbaccalaureate Students

International students can be conditionally admitted to PSU without meeting the English language proficiency requirement or taking the TOEFL or IELTS. However, in this case enrollment will be restricted to English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. Students admitted to PSU on a conditional basis must meet one of the acceptable proofs of English language proficiency (listed below) before they can begin non-ESL courses at PSU.

### Graduate Students

All graduate students whose native language is not English must meet the English language proficiency requirement before enrollment in academic classes. Please note that this requirement applies to all students, including permanent residents and U.S. citizens. Very few graduate departments will approve conditional admission with restriction to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Please ask your graduate coordinator to explain your department's policy.

### Acceptable proof of English Language Proficiency:

1. Minimum required official score (listed in box below), achieved within the last two years, on the International TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam, the PSU Institutional TOEFL, or the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam;
2. Test score more than two years old *if* the score exceeded the minimum requirement *and* you have maintained continuous residency in the U.S. since the exam date; or
3. Completion of a 4-year bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctoral degree at a college/university in the United States, English-speaking Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain or Ireland.

### Unacceptable proof of English Language Proficiency (these do NOT meet the requirement):

1. Test score less than PSU's minimum requirement (listed in box below);
2. Test score more than two years old (unless you have lived in the U.S. continuously since the exam date);
3. Institutional TOEFL score from any school except PSU;
4. Completion of an ESL program at another school;
5. Successful completion of English, Writing, or Literature classes;
6. A diploma from a U.S. high school;
7. An associate's degree from a U.S. community college; or
8. A bachelor's degree representing less than 4 years of study.

### How to Order Official TOEFL or IELTS Scores:

- **PSU Institutional TOEFL:** International Admissions already has your official score report.
- **International TOEFL:** The TOEFL is administered by the Educational Testing Services (ETS). International Admissions must receive an official score report directly from ETS. We will receive your official score report if you indicate, when you take the exam, that ETS should send us an official score report. If you do not, you must ask ETS to send us an official score report. Please use PSU's institution code **4610** and the department code **00** when you order an official TOEFL score report from ETS. Contact information is available at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org).
- **IELTS:** Test Report Forms are sent directly to PSU from the IELTS Testing Center where you took the test. Please contact your testing center to order an official IELTS score report. Contact information is available at [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org).

### TEST SCORE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

	<u>PBT**</u>	<u>CBT**</u>	<u>IBT**</u>	<u>IELTS</u>
Undergraduate/Postbaccalaureate	525	197	Minimum each section: 16 reading; 16 listening; 14 speaking; 14 writing	6.5 overall , minimum 6.0 on each individual band
Master's/Doctoral	550*	213*	Minimum each section: 18* reading; 18* listening; 16* speaking; 16* writing	7.0*

\*Some graduate programs require higher scores. Please consult your academic department's graduate coordinator to verify minimum score requirements.

\*\*PBT=Paper-based TOEFL; CBT=Computer-based TOEFL; IBT=Internet-based TOEFL

For further information please contact:

- **Admissions:** (503) 725-3511 or [intladm@pdx.edu](mailto:intladm@pdx.edu) about PSU's English language requirement
- **Intensive English Language Program:** (503) 725-4088 or [esl@pdx.edu](mailto:esl@pdx.edu) about ESL class registration
- **PSU Testing Services:** (503) 725-4428 or [testing@pdx.edu](mailto:testing@pdx.edu) about the PSU Institutional TOEFL exam
- **International TOEFL:** [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org) or **IELTS:** [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY - Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Who needs to meet the English language proficiency requirement?***

All admitted undergraduate, postbaccalaureate and graduate international students on non-immigrant visas must satisfy the English language proficiency requirement before they can enroll in regular academic classes. Graduate applicants who are permanent residents, refugees, asylees or U.S. citizens also **must** meet the English language proficiency requirement. Postbaccalaureate or graduate applicants are eligible for a waiver of this requirement if they completed a 4-year bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States, English-speaking Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain or Ireland. Important note: *Undergraduate and postbaccalaureate* applicants who are U.S. permanent residents, refugees, or asylees are **not** required to take the TOEFL or IELTS.

### ***Do all students educated outside of the U.S. have to take the TOEFL/IELTS?***

An international student holding a student visa or other non-immigrant visa must meet Portland State's English language proficiency requirement (by taking either TOEFL or IELTS). If you hold a 4-year bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States, English-speaking Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain or Ireland you are eligible for a waiver of the English language proficiency requirement.

### ***I completed my bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree at a college/university inside the U.S. Do I still need to take TOEFL/IELTS?***

No. TOEFL/IELTS is waived automatically for students who have completed a 4-year bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree at a U.S. college/university.

### ***I completed a 4-year bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree outside the U.S. at a college/university where English is the only language of instruction. Do I need to take the TOEFL/IELTS?***

TOEFL/IELTS will be waived **only** for students who have completed a 4-year bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree at a college/university in the United States, English-speaking Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain or Ireland.

### ***I am not an international student. I am a Permanent Resident (green card holder)/US Citizen/Refugee/Asylee. Do I still need to meet the English language proficiency requirement by taking the TOEFL/IELTS?***

*Undergraduate and postbaccalaureate* applicants who are permanent residents, refugees, or asylees are **not** required to take the TOEFL/IELTS. However, *graduate* applicants who are permanent residents, refugees, asylees, or U.S. citizens must meet the English language proficiency requirement unless their undergraduate/bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree was completed in the United States, English-speaking Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain or Ireland.

### ***What are the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS)?***

TOEFL and IELTS are tests designed to assess your English language proficiency.

### ***Do you offer conditional admission if I haven't taken TOEFL/IELTS or have a score lower than the minimum requirement?***

Undergraduate or postbaccalaureate students who do not meet the minimum TOEFL/IELTS score requirement can be conditionally admitted to PSU with a restriction to ESL classes until they obtain a sufficient TOEFL/IELTS score. Graduate students who do not meet the TOEFL/IELTS requirement must contact their graduate department to initiate a petition with the Office of Graduate Studies for special consideration. The Admissions Office cannot grant conditional admission to graduate students without the approval of **both** the student's graduate academic department/program **and** the Office of Graduate Studies.

### ***My admission letter says I am admitted with an English as a Second Language (ESL) restriction. What does this mean?***

Until you meet the English language proficiency requirement, your enrollment will be restricted to ESL classes. You will be required to take an English Language Placement Test in the ESL department and follow the advice of the ESL faculty about your class registration.

### ***Will you accept a copy of my TOEFL or IELTS score report?***

Yes. We can use unofficial documents for our admission evaluation. However, we must receive an official score report directly from your testing service (TOEFL or IELTS) before the end of your first term of PSU enrollment.

### ***How can I get the official TOEFL/IELTS scores?***

**TOEFL:** The TOEFL is administered by the Educational Testing Services (ETS). Contact ETS directly to order an official TOEFL score to be sent directly to PSU. Contact information is available at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org). The PSU institution code is 4610, and the department code is 00.

**IELTS:** Test Report Forms are sent directly to PSU from the IELTS Testing Center where you took the test. Please contact your testing center to order an official IELTS score report. Contact information is available at [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org).

### ***I took TOEFL/IELTS more than two years ago. Do I need to take it again?***

Both TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the date you took the test. In some circumstances, we can accept TOEFL/IELTS scores that are older than two years if you have maintained continuous presence in the U.S. since the exam date. This determination is made by the Office of Admissions on a case-by-case basis.

### ***What is the difference between the IELP and ESL program at PSU?***

**IELP:** The Intensive English Language Program (IELP) is a PSU program for students seeking English language training only. Classes offered through the IELP program are non-credit courses that can prepare you for regular academic courses at PSU or other universities. **ESL:** The ESL program is for degree-seeking PSU students who have not yet demonstrated English language proficiency and, therefore, are required to take ESL classes. Students in the ESL program will receive credits and grades for their ESL classes. If you are an undergraduate student, you may be able to apply up to 36 ESL credits (as elective credits) toward your bachelor's degree requirements.