

English proficiency (subclass 482)

When applying for the Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482), primary visa applicants are required to demonstrate that they meet certain minimum standards of English language proficiency by taking and achieving a specific result in an English language test, unless exemptions apply.

Exemptions

Core Skills and Specialist Skills streams

Online tests are not approved for Australian visa purposes

Labour agreement stream

Exemptions

You are exempt from needing to prove English language proficiency if one of the following apply:

- you are a passport holder from:
 - Canada
 - New Zealand
 - the Republic of Ireland
 - the United Kingdom
 - the United States of America
- you have completed at least 5 years of full-time study in at least a secondary level institution and where most classes were in English. We need the following information:
 - name and location of the institution/s
 - level of qualification/s
 - official transcript from the secondary and/or tertiary institution
 - number of contact hours per week in English
 - number of years of study
- your nominated occupation in Australia will be performed at:
 - diplomatic or consular mission of another country
 - an Office of the Authorities of Taiwan

- your nominated occupation requires you:
 - to hold a licence, registration or membership
 - you were granted the licence, registration, or membership
 - you had to prove that you had equal or higher English language proficiency than that listed in the table below to be granted the licence, registration or membership
- you are:
 - an employee of an overseas business
 - the business or its associated entity has nominated you to work in Australia
 - you will receive guaranteed annual earnings of at least AUD96,400

Core Skills and Specialist Skills streams

If none of the above exemptions apply, you must take an English language test before you apply for the subclass 482 visa in the Core Skills or Specialist Skills stream. You must:

- achieve the minimum score in one of the tests listed below
- take the test within 3 years before you apply

Table 1 - Tests taken on or after 13 September 2025

Note: If your test offers a single skill retake option, we may accept your result for that skill.

Test	Minimum required results
Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP) General	Listening: 5 Reading: 5 Writing: 5 Speaking: 5

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic

Listening: 5.0
Reading: 5.0
Writing: 5.0
Speaking: 5.0

IELTS General Training

Listening: 5.0
Reading: 5.0
Writing: 5.0
Speaking: 5.0

LANGUAGECERT academic

Listening: 41
Reading: 44
Writing: 45
Speaking: 54

Michigan English Test (MET)

Listening: 49
Reading: 47
Writing: 45
Speaking: 38

Occupational English Test (OET)

Listening: 220
Reading: 240
Writing: 200
Speaking: 270

PTE Academic

Listening: 33
Reading: 36
Writing: 29
Speaking: 24

TOEFL iBT

Note: For tests taken on or after 21 January 2026, you must select 'Taking TOEFL for Australia' during registration to ensure your test is valid for Australian visa purposes.

Listening: 8
Reading: 8
Writing: 9
Speaking: 14

Table 2 - Tests taken before 13 September 2025

You must achieve the minimum scores in one sitting. Single skill retake results are not accepted.

Test	Minimum required results
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Overall band score of at least 5.0 with a score of at least 5 in each of the test components.
Occupational English Test (OET)	Score of at least 'B' in each of the four components

[Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test \(TOEFL iBT\)](#)

From 26 July 2023 to 4 May 2024, the TOEFL iBT test was not approved for Australian visa purposes.

iBT total score of at least 35 with a score of at least 4 for each of the test components of listening and reading, and a score of at least 14 for each of the test components of speaking and writing

[Pearson Test of English Academic \(PTE Academic\)](#)

Academic overall test score of at least 36 with a score of at least 36 in each of the test components

[Cambridge C1 Advanced test](#)

Previously known as Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE).

Overall test score of at least 154 with a score of at least 154 in each of the test components.

From 12 February 2024, only results from the Cambridge C1 Advanced paper-based test are accepted.

Tests taken before 12 February 2024 and within specified validity periods, for both C1 Advanced paper-based and computer-based tests, are still accepted.

Online tests are not approved for Australian visa purposes

The Department does not accept evidence from English language tests where an entire test is delivered online (also known as “remote-proctored” or “at-home”).

Examples of online tests that the Department does not accept, include:

- CELPIP Online
- IELTS Online
- LANGUAGECERT Academic Online
- OET@Home
- MET Digital (taken at-home)
- TOEFL iBT – Home Edition

Labour agreement stream

You must have English language skills suitable to perform your nominated occupation. English requirements may be specified in the Labour agreement between your employer and the Commonwealth.