



## English language proficiency – Master’s programmes

For admission to most master’s programmes you must be proficient in English. You can find the exact language requirements for your chosen master’s programme in the [programme description](#).

### English tests accepted

Results may not be more than two years old and must be obtained in one single test.

- [IELTS](#): academic modules only, on paper or on computer
  - We do **not** accept the [IELTS Academic Online](#).
  - We do **not** accept IELTS General Training, IELTS Indicator, or IELTS One Skill Retake.
- [TOEFL](#): internet based (IBT)
  - We do **not** accept The TOEFL IBT Home Edition™ or the TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™, except in the following situation only:
    - *you are unable to take an in-person test on location because test centres are inaccessible or closed due to unsafe conditions in a country.*
  - We do **not** accept the following types of test: TOEFL My Best™ scores (multiple test scores combined), TOEFL Essentials™ or institutional tests such as ITP.
- [Cambridge English Exam](#) C2 Proficiency or C1 Advanced, depending on admission criteria

*The above-mentioned organisations offer adaptations for students with special requirements. Consult the organisation website for details.*

#### **\*New TOEFL grading scale 2026**

In January 2026, TOEFL introduced a new grading scale. Test certificates issued in 2026 and 2027 will show *overall* scores in both the old grading scale (0-120) and the new grading scale (1-6). *Component* or band scores will only be shown in the new grading scale. Leiden University’s 2026-2027 overall score requirements will continue to be based on the old grading scale. If you took your test on or after 21 January 2026, you must meet the overall score requirement shown on our website in the old grading scale (0-120), and the component score requirements shown on our website in the new grading scale (1-6).

### Before taking your English test

Check that you are dealing with a genuine test centre. Unfortunately, fraudulent test centres and websites do exist. If in doubt, check directly with the central test organisation.



### Score equivalency table

IELTS	TOEFL* (overall)	TOEFL* component score (new scale)	TOEFL* component score (old scale)	Cambridge C2 Proficiency (CPE), or C1 Advanced (CAE)	Cambridge component score
6.0	80	4.0	20	CPE, CAE	169
6.5	90	4.5	22	CPE/CAE 180	176
7.0	100	5.0	25	CPE/CAE 185	185
7.5	113	5.5	27	CPE/CAE 191	191

### Exemptions

You can be exempted from submitting one of the above-mentioned English test results if:

- You have an [International Baccalaureate™ Diploma](#) (IB DP) taught in English or with English A HL.
- You completed your secondary or higher education in the USA, UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada (except French-taught programmes in Canada) Singapore, South-Africa or Malta\*.  
\*This includes diplomas that are issued by schools/institutions from the above-mentioned countries that are located elsewhere but are accredited as part of the education system in the above-mentioned countries.
- You have an English-taught, university-level degree from a Dutch research university.
- For most but *not all* master’s programmes: you have an English-taught bachelor’s or master’s degree from a Dutch university of applied sciences (HBO). See the relevant master’s programme page for details.
- For most but *not all* master’s programmes: you have a Dutch VWO diploma. See the relevant master’s programme page for details.

*In exceptional cases, students who otherwise qualify for an exemption but whose application documents cast doubt on their English proficiency, may be asked to take an English test.*

### How to submit your test results

- Upload a copy of your test results in Leiden University’s online application portal (uSis).
- If you would like to submit a TOEFL IBT Special Home Edition™ or TOEFL IBT Paper Edition™ due to unsafe conditions (as specified under ‘English tests accepted’ above), also upload a document explaining the situation in your region so the university can verify if you qualify for this ruling.



**Universiteit  
Leiden**

### **Authenticity of test results**

Be aware that applicants are responsible for ensuring that they submit authentic test results only. During the application phase, Leiden University has strict measures in place for the verification of English language test results. After arrival, should there be serious doubts about a student's English proficiency, Leiden University reserves the right to ask the test organisation to perform additional authenticity checks. Instances of test fraud will be reported to the relevant authorities and will exclude you from studying at Leiden University.