

Streaming Criteria for the Common Core English Communication (E-Comm) Pathways

Academic Year 2025-26

Students are required to complete 6 credits of English Communication (E-Comm) under the Common Core Program. They are streamed into two pathways according to their English qualifications on admission. Details about the courses for the two pathways can be found in <https://cle.hkust.edu.hk/courses/common-core/english>

Pathway 1: for students who have met the English admission requirement

Pathway 2: for students whose proficiency level is beyond the English language admission requirement

Please also read the **Important Notes** at the bottom of the table below.

English Qualifications	Pathway 1	Threshold for Pathway 2
IELTS	All grades or scores below the threshold for Pathway 2 in the qualifications specified; & All other English qualifications not specified (including JEE)	6.5 (with no subscore lower than 6.0)
Duolingo		135
Pearson PTEA		70
TOEFL Paper-based (PBT)		575, and 4.5 on TWE
TOEFL Internet-based (iBT)		91, and 21 on Writing
TOEFL Paper-delivered (rPDT)		69 (with no subscore lower than 22)
HKALE: Use of English		C (with no subscore lower than C)
HKDSE: Eng		5 (with no subscore lower than 4)
C1 (formerly known as “Cambridge English: Advanced” and “Certificate in Advanced English: CAE”)		C
AP: Eng Lang & Comp / Eng Lit & Comp		4
IB: Eng A Lit (HL & SL) / Eng A Lang & Lit (HL & SL) / Eng Lit & Perf (SL)		4
IB: Eng B (HL & SL)		5
IGCSE/GCSE/GCEOL: Eng Lang & Lit / Eng (First Lang) / Lit in Eng		A or 7
IGCSE (Edexcel): Eng Lang / Eng Lang A / Eng Lang B / Eng Lit		A or 7
IGCSE (Edexcel): Eng (as 2nd lang)		A* or 8
Malaysia SPM: Eng Lang 1119 GCEOL		B
Malaysia MUET		240
GCE AL & AS: Eng / Eng Lit / Eng General Paper		B
All India Senior School Cert: Class 12 English OR Indian School Certificate Examination (Class 12 English)		90%

Important Notes:

- For any qualification to be valid for streaming, it must have been obtained in the two years before a student is admitted to HKUST, i.e. if the student admitted in 2025, the grade or score must have been obtained in 2023, 2024 or 2025.
- Course streaming should be done based on students’ highest qualification obtained. For example, a JEE student with IELTS 6.5 (with no subscore lower than 6.0) should be streamed to Pathway 2, instead of Pathway 1.
- For submission of English Language qualifications for streaming, students please present physical true copy of their public exam results to the Academic Registry (Room 1381, 1/F, Academic Building, Lifts 17-18).

If you have questions about your pathway or English courses that you should take, contact an advisor.

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