



## **Demonstration of proficiency in English in the student selection of the University of Turku**

When selecting students to pursue a degree, the applicants must prove their language skills in the manner described in the admission criteria. The University follows the manners of verifying language skills which are defined in the Rector's decision. (The University of Turku Regulation on Studies 16 March 2018.)

Due to legislative regulations as well as for the University's reputation and high quality, the criteria of the selection process must be transparent and equal. Uniform criteria and manners of proving language skills in the whole University clarify the selection process from the perspectives of the applicant, representatives of the University, and partners and strengthen its reliability. The manners and criteria of proving English language proficiency at the University of Turku are based on national recommendations.

The basis for proving language proficiency, manners of proving it, and the criteria are presented in Appendix 1. The manners of proving English language proficiency defined in this document apply directly to persons applying for education leading to a basic degree at the University of Turku.

The manners of demonstrating English language proficiency according to this decision will be implemented in student admissions starting after 1 January 2025.

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Appendices Appendix 1: Demonstration of proficiency in English in the student selection of the University of Turku

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Appendix to Rector's Decision TY/601/2024

## **Demonstration of proficiency in English in the student selection of the University of Turku**

Having come into effect on 1 August 2018, the University of Turku Regulation on Studies determines the following on demonstration of language proficiency in student selection: "When selecting students to pursue a degree, the applicants must prove their language skills in the manner described in the admission criteria. The University follows the manners of verifying language skills which are defined in the Rector's decision."

Internationality is a prerequisite for a research university. Due to legislative regulations as well as for the University's reputation and high quality, the criteria of the selection process must be transparent and equal. Uniform criteria and manners of proving language skills in the whole University clarify the selection process from the perspectives of the applicant, representatives of the University, and partners and strengthen its reliability. The manners and criteria of proving English language proficiency at the University of Turku are based on national recommendations.

The manners of proving English language proficiency defined in this document apply directly to persons applying for education leading to a basic degree at the University of Turku.

When drafting degree programmes that are implemented in collaboration with other higher education institutions, it must be ensured that the language skill requirements of the partner universities are also transparent, predetermined, and commensurable with the requirements of the University of Turku. The minimum requirements of language tests must also be on the same level with those of the University of Turku.

These manners of proving language skills are primarily applied to commissioned education as well.

### **Demonstrating proficiency in the English language when applying for a degree programme leading to a higher education degree (basic degree education in English)**

The Government Decree 794/2004 states the following on the goals of higher education degrees regarding language proficiency by degree level: a person who has completed a Bachelor's degree possesses "sufficient language skills for the duties of their field as well as international operations and collaboration", a person who has completed a Master's degree possesses "good communication and language skills for the duties of their field as well as international operations and collaboration", and a person who has completed a postgraduate degree "has gained sufficient communication and language skills and other skills to operate [...] in international collaboration".

Persons applying for Bachelor's degree programmes are required to possess a language proficiency in English of the lower B2 level. According to the European Language Proficiency Framework, the level B2.1 is a basic level of independent language proficiency with which the person in question is capable of versatile expression, regular interaction, as well as powerful argumentation. Field-specific vocabulary and academic communication skills develop during the studies, as Bachelor's degree programmes include language studies either as separate courses or integrated into the studies of the field.



Persons applying for international Master's degree programmes are required to possess a language proficiency of the level B2.2. On the higher half of the level B2, argumentation and interaction in the communication of the student's own field become more efficient and linguistic awareness increases. Communication is fluent and spontaneous and requires no extra effort from either party. Students must possess good skills in academic written and oral expression already at the application phase in order to be able to fully focus on building up their expertise in their own fields from the beginning of their studies in accordance with the objectives of the degrees.

### **Demonstrating proficiency in the English language for bachelor's studies**

The minimum level of language proficiency (CEFR) to be aimed for when applying for bachelor's degree studies is B2.

#### **Upper secondary school examinations**

You can demonstrate language proficiency in one of the following ways without taking the full matriculation examination (unless the applicant demonstrates language proficiency in the language of the International Baccalaureate Diploma):

Finnish Matriculation Examination:

- English examination completed at advanced syllabus level (A language level) with at least the grade magna cum laude approbatur (M)

IB Diploma Programme:

- Programme completed in English
- A-level English test (literature/language and literature/literature and performance) passed
- B-level English test passed with at least grade 5 (good)

In European Baccalaureate Examination:

- L1 language (English) passed
- L2 or L3 language (English) completed with a grade 7 or above

For the RP examination (Deutsche Schule Helsinki), sufficient English language proficiency deemed to be fulfilled if the applicant has passed English as an A language (or equivalent result in the upcoming DIA exam)

- with a pass mark in writing
- orally with at least grade 8

#### **Language exams and tests**

- TOEFL test with a score of at least 78 (iBT test), writing test score of at least 20
- IELTS (academic) test with a score of at least 6.0, writing test score of at least 5.5
- PTE (academic) test with a score of at least 54, writing test score of at least 42
- C1 Advanced with a minimum score of C
- C2 Proficiency with a minimum score of: Level C1
- National Certificates of Language Proficiency (YKI) (English) passed at level 4 in all subtests (reading comprehension, writing, speaking and listening comprehension). You can combine the different examinations.



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If the applicant is selected on the basis of an SAT test, they do not have to provide a separate certificate of English language proficiency.

No language test is required if the applicant has completed their secondary education in English in an EU/EEA country, the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand or Switzerland.

No language test is required if the applicant has a degree from a Finnish university or university of applied sciences in which the foreign language proficiency in accordance with the regulation has been demonstrated in English.

No language test is required if the applicant has a bachelor's<sup>1</sup>, master's, licentiate or doctoral degree in English from an EU/EEA country or one of the following countries: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Dominica, Cameroon, Canada, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Dominica, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, South Africa, United Kingdom, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Switzerland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe, Zambia.

### **Demonstrating proficiency in the English language for master's studies**

The target level of language proficiency (CEFR) is B2.2/C1.

#### **Upper secondary school examinations**

You can demonstrate language proficiency in one of the following ways without taking the full matriculation examination (unless the applicant demonstrates language proficiency in the language of the International Baccalaureate Diploma):

Finnish Matriculation Examination:

- English examination completed at advanced syllabus level (A language level) with at least the grade magna cum laude approbatur (M)

IB Diploma Programme:

- Programme completed in English
- A-level English test (literature/language and literature/literature and performance) passed
- B-level English test passed with at least grade 5 (good)

In European Baccalaureate Examination:

- L1 language (English) passed
- L2 or L3 language (English) completed with a grade 7 or above

For the RP examination (Deutsche Schule Helsinki), sufficient English language proficiency deemed to be fulfilled if the applicant has passed English as an A language (or equivalent result in the upcoming DIA exam)

- with a pass mark in writing

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<sup>1</sup> Or an equivalent degree that qualifies you for a master's degree in that country



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- orally with at least grade 8

### Language exams and tests

- TOEFL test with a score of at least 92 (iBT test), writing test score of at least 22
- IELTS (academic) test with a score of at least 6.5, writing test score of at least 6.0
- PTE (academic) test with a score of at least 62, writing test score of at least 42
- C1 Advanced with a score of C
- C2 Proficiency with a minimum score of: Level C1
- National Certificates of Language Proficiency (YKI) (English) passed at level 5 in all subtests (reading comprehension, writing, speaking and listening comprehension). You can combine the different examinations.

No language test is required if the applicant has completed their secondary education in English in an EU/EEA country, the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand or Switzerland.

No language test is required if the applicant has a degree from a Finnish university or university of applied sciences in which the foreign language proficiency in accordance with the regulation has been demonstrated in English.

No language test is required if the applicant has a bachelor's<sup>2</sup>, master's, licentiate or doctoral degree in English from an EU/EEA country or one of the following countries: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Dominica, Cameroon, Canada, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Dominica, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, South Africa, United Kingdom, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Switzerland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe, Zambia.

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<sup>2</sup> Or an equivalent degree that qualifies you for a master's degree in that country