

APPROVED ENGLISH TESTS AND SCORES

For September 2026 entry onwards



Last updated February 2026

Applicants must present a qualification that is within its validity period.

Applicants requiring a Student visa must have passed the English language test within two years of the date they submit their visa application (this includes qualifications with longer periods of validity). It should be noted that as the RCM cannot control the exact date on which an applicant applies for their visa, for the purposes of assessment the RCM will normally require the qualification to be valid on the course start date.

Applicants must pass all four components of their test (reading, writing, speaking and listening) in a single sitting. The only exception accepted by the RCM is IELTS One Skill Retake, which allows applicants missing the required score for one component to retake it within a limited timeframe.

Courses	CEFR Level	Tests and minimum required scores
Bachelor of Music BMus(Hons) Master of Performance MPerf Master of Composition MComp Graduate Diploma in Vocal Performance GradDip Artist Diplomas in Performance, Opera and Composition ArtDip	B2 in all four components: reading, listening, speaking & writing	Cambridge: Advanced Certificate in English Overall score of 160-179 and no less than 160 in any component.
		Cambridge: First Certificate in English Overall score of 160-172 and no less than 160 in any component.
		IELTS (Academic) / IELTS (Academic) for UKVI/ IELTS Online (Academic) Overall score of 5.5, with a minimum of 5.5 in all four components (reading, listening, speaking, writing). Tests from all IELTS centres are accepted, not just tests from UKVI SELT centres
		LanguageCert Academic / LanguageCert Academic SELT, including online version Minimum of 60 in all 4 components (reading, listening, speaking, writing)
		Pearson PTE Academic / PTE Academic UKVI Overall score of 59, with a minimum of 59 in all four components (reading, listening, speaking, writing)
		Skills for English B2 SELT / Skills for English B2 Pass in all 4 components (reading, listening, speaking, writing)
		TOEFL iBT / TOEFL iBT Home Edition Overall score of 4.0, with at least 4.0 in all four components <i>(If taken before 21 January 2026: Overall score of 72, with minimum component scores of: Reading-18, Listening -17, Speaking-20, Writing-17)</i>
		Trinity Integrated Skills in English – ISE II Pass in all 4 components (reading, listening, speaking, writing)

Courses	CEFR Level	Tests and minimum scores
Master of Music MMus MMusEd Teaching Musician MMusEd Master of Science in Performance Science MSc Artist Diploma in Conducting ArtDip Doctoral Programme PhD	C1 overall, with at least B2 in all four components: reading, speaking, listening & writing	<p>Cambridge: First Certificate in English Overall score of 180-190, with no less than 160 in any component.</p> <p>Cambridge: Advanced Certificate in English Overall score of 180-200, with no less than 160 in any component.</p> <p>Cambridge: English C2 Proficiency Overall score of 180-199, with no less than 180 in any component.</p> <p>IELTS (Academic) / IELTS (Academic) for UKVI/ IELTS Online (Academic) Overall score of 7.0, with at least 5.5 in all four components. Tests from all IELTS centres will be accepted, not just tests from UKVI SELT centres.</p> <p>LanguageCert Academic / LanguageCert Academic SELT, including online version Minimum of 70 in all 4 components (reading, listening, speaking, writing)</p> <p>Pearson PTE Academic/PTE Academic UKVI Overall score of 76, with a minimum of 59 in all four components (reading, listening, speaking, writing)</p> <p>Skills for English C1 SELT / Skills for English C1 Pass in all 4 components (reading, listening, speaking, writing)</p> <p>TOEFL iBT / TOEFL iBT Home Edition Overall score of 5, with at least 5.0 in all four components <i>(If taken before 21 January 2026: Overall score of 95, with minimum component scores of: Reading-24, Listening -22, Speaking-25, Writing-24)</i></p> <p>Trinity Integrated Skills in English – ISE III Pass in all four components (reading, listening, speaking, writing)</p>