

English Waiver Guidelines

George Mason University

Table 1: Undergraduate Exemptions

Test	International Year One – 3 semester	International Year One & UTP – 2 semester	International Year One & UTP – 1 semester / International Direct	Undergraduate Direct Entry
IELTS (including IELTS Online Academic and IELTS One Skill retake)	5.0 (4.5 all sub scores)	5.5 (5.0 all sub scores)^	6.0 (5.5 all sub scores)^	6.5 (6.0 all sub scores)^
TOEFL (including MyBest Score and TOEFL iBT Home edition for all programs)	50 (10 all sub scores)	60 (13 all sub scores)	70 (15 all sub scores)	80 (18 all sub scores)
New TOEFL (from January 2026)	3.0 (2.5 all sub scores)	3.5 (3.0 all sub scores)	4.0 (3.5 all sub scores)	4.5 (4.0 all sub scores)
TOEFL Essentials	6.0 (5.0 all sub scores)	6.5 (6.0 all sub scores)	7.5 (7.0 all sub scores)	
PTEA	41	45	53	59
Duolingo English Test	80	90	100	110
IB	English A Language and Literature HL OR English A Literature and HL: 4 Qualifies for 2 Semester IYO		English A Language and Literature HL OR English A Literature and HL: 5 Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO	English A Language and Literature HL OR English A Literature and HL: 6
IGCSE/GCSE	English First Language with C (5) or better. Not predicted scores. (3 years or newer) Qualifies for 2 Semester IYO			
A Levels (A/AS)	English First Language with C or better. Not predicted scores. (3 years or newer) Qualifies for 2 Semester IYO			
US High School (excluding Puerto Rico)	3 years of English classes with a grade of C or better with no ESL classes. Must have graduated within the past three years. Qualifies for 1 Semester IYO			3+ years of English classes with a grade of C or better with no ESL classes. Must have graduated within the past three years.

International High School (English medium of instruction)	3 years of English classes with a grade of C or better with no ESL classes at a Mason-recognized U.S. regionally-accredited secondary school abroad. Must have graduated within the past three years. Qualifies for 1 semester IYO.			3+ years of English classes with a grade of C or better with no ESL classes at a Mason-recognized U.S. regionally-accredited secondary school abroad. Must have graduated within the past three years.
US Post-Secondary Institution			An English waiver can be granted for UTP students so long as they have attended a US accredited institution and completed English Composition I & II.	An English waiver can be granted for transfer students so long as they have attended a US accredited institution and completed English Composition I & II with grades of C or better
ILA (International Language Academy)		Completion of Level 110	Completion of Level 111 (IYO only)	
SAT			500 EBRW	500 EBRW
ACT			20 English/Writing	20 English/Writing
HKDSE	English Level 3 or better			
Malaysia SPM	English 119 with C or better			
WAEC	Grade C6 in English Language			
AP	Language & Composition or Literature & Composition with 3 or better			
Cambridge English: First	155	165	180	
Cambridge English: Proficiency	155	165	180	
Cambridge English: Advanced	155	165	180	
Gaokao	105	110	120	
NCUK	NCUK EAP module grade of C or higher			NCUK EAP module grade of B or higher
Completion of Academic English	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5 (excluding ID)	Level 6
FIEC	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Cameroon, Montserrat, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda	3 years of English classes with a grade of C or better with no ESL classes. Must have graduated within the past three years.* Qualifies for 1-Semester accelerated IYO			

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada (excluding Quebec), Cayman Islands, Dominica, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Saint Helena, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe	3 years of English classes with a grade of C or better with no ESL classes. Must have graduated within the past three years. Qualifies for 1-Semester accelerated IYO			3+ years of English classes with a grade of C or better with no ESL classes. Must have graduated within the past three years.
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Table 2: Graduate Exemptions

Test	Graduate Pathway – 2 semester	Graduate Pathway – 1 semester/Graduate Certificate	Graduate Direct Entry
IELTS (including IELTS Online Academic and IELTS One Skill retake)	6.0 overall (5.5 all sub scores) or 5.5 overall (no sub scores)^	6.5 (6.0 all sub scores) or 6.0 overall (no sub scores)^	7.0 overall (6.5 all sub scores) or 6.5 (no sub scores)^
TOEFL (including MyBest Score and TOEFL iBT Home edition for all programs)	70 (15 all sub scores) or 65 overall (no sub scores)^	80 overall (17 all sub scores) or 75 overall (no sub scores)^	88-100 overall (20-23 all sub scores) or 80 overall (no sub scores)^
New TOEFL (from January 2026)	4.0 (3.5 all sub scores)	4.5 (4.0 all sub scores)	5.0 (4.5 all sub scores)
TOEFL Essentials	7.5 (7.0 sub scores)	8.5 (8.0 sub scores)	
PTEA	52	59	67^
Duolingo English Test	100	110	120
Completion of Academic English	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
ILA (International Language Academy)	Level 111	Level 112	
Bachelor's or graduate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. Institution	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cameroon, Montserrat, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda	Yes - Students who hold a conferred bachelor's degree from a Mason-recognized university in these countries Qualifies for Accelerated 1 Semester Pathway*		No

<p>Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada (excluding Quebec), Cayman Islands, Dominica, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Saint Helena, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe</p>	<p>Yes - Students who hold a conferred bachelor's degree from a Mason-recognized university in these countries Qualifies for Accelerated 1 Semester Pathway</p>	<p>Yes - for students who hold a conferred bachelor's degree from a Mason-recognized university in these countries</p>
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[^] Depending on the program

* Applicants may be asked to provide proof of English as the medium of instruction.