English Language Policy Statement

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Purpose	This policy outlines the minimum English language requirements for admission to IADT programmes and English language supports offered to international students while studying at IADT.
Policy Author	Assistant Registrar and International Office
Policy Owner	Office of the Registrar
Intended Audience	All staff, international applicants and students
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Version 1 2025	New Document	N/A

Note: All links included in the document are correct at time of publishing. For most up to date information, refer to the IADT website

Contents

1. Introduction

IADT is committed to fostering an inclusive and globally diverse learning environment. This policy outlines the minimum English language requirements for admission to IADT programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate, micro-credential, and certificate levels. It also details English language support services which are available to assist non-native English speakers during their studies. As English is the primary language of instruction and assessment, all applicants must demonstrate an adequate level of English language proficiency to ensure their academic success.

2. Purpose

This policy statement outlines the Institute's approach to supporting international students' English language needs in order to enable them to meet the entry requirements to their programme of study at IADT and to successfully engage with and complete their programme. IADT is committed to supporting high standards of English language proficiency among its international student community.

The policy statement complements the existing suite of policies, procedures and processes that ensure the quality of international recruitment and engagement and intends to demonstrate IADT's adherence to Section 5.5 of QQI's Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education to International Learners. This statement:

- Clearly documents IADT's policy approach and processes for assessing English language proficiency entry requirements.
- Details the institution's strategies for the provision, support, and development of English for Academic Purposes (EAP).
- Outlines the measures in place for providing English language support to non-native English speakers prior to and throughout their higher education programmes

3. Scope

This statement applies to all of the Institute's programmes that lead to awards included within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), encompassing undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered to international learners from Levels 6 to 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications. .

4.   Definitions

4.1   International Student

QQI's Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education to International Learners sets out the categories of international learners as follows:

- EU/EEA students in the state undertaking programmes that lead to major or non-major awards that are included within the NFQ;
- Non-EU/EEA students in the state undertaking programmes leading to major or non-major awards that are included within the NFQ;
- Learners outside the state enrolled on programmes that lead to major or non-major awards included within the NFQ, whether offered in transnational education settings and/or though remote, fully online modes of learning.

5. Policy

Teaching at IADT is through the medium of English, therefore all applicants are required to demonstrate a high level of competence in the English language.

5.1   English Language Entry Requirements

All applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of their proficiency. The following

are the minimum requirements:

5.1.1 Standard English Language Requirements

Programme Level	Minimum IELTS Requirement	Other Accepted Tests (Equivalent Scores Apply)
Undergraduate (Level 6-8)	IELTS 6.0 (with no band lower than 5.5)	TOEFL IBT 79 I Duolingo 110 I Cambridge B2 I other tests as per CAO EU EFTA UK document
Postgraduate (Level 9-10)	IELTS 6.5 (with no band lower than 6.0)	TOEFL iBT 90 I Duolingo 120 I Cambridge C1 I LanguageCert ESOL

5.1.2 Alternative Proof of English Proficiency
Applicants may also meet the English requirement if they:
- Have completed a full qualification (minimum one academic year) through the instruction of English, at NFQ level 5 or higher.
- For year 1 undergraduate admissions, applicants can use their English grades in international secondary qualifications (if obtained in the last 2 years), such as but not limited to:
  o IB (International Baccalaureate): SL5 or HL4 in English
  o European Baccalaureate: English L1 (6.0) or L2 (7.0)
  o Full information can be found on the CAO EU EFTA UK document

6. Provision of English Language Supports to International Students

6.1 Pre-Sessional English Language Supports
To date, IADT has not offered any pre-sessional English language support as meeting or exceeding the English Language entry requirements deem students sufficiently qualified and ready to commence their studies at IADT.

6.2 In-Sessional English Language Supports
During their studies at IADT, international students are supported in their English language development as follows:
- Education Week which forms part of First Year Focus induction and is designed to help students get to grips with the different aspects of education involved in university life, such as academic writing, time management, goal orientation and study skills.

- The FFACT Connect module delivered to all FFACT students in Semester 1 of Year 1:
  o supports all students in the transition to level 8 study
  o gives students an overview of their chosen discipline
  o enhances students Critical and Creative Thinking and their communication skills
  o helps new students to get to know each other and the Institute

- The IADT Student Learning Centre. All IADT registered students, including international students, are encouraged to avail of the IADT Student Learning Centre. The centre offers a range of academic and study skills supports including:
  o Breaking Down Your Assignment Brief
  o Academic Writing Skills
  o Thesis Proposal and Thesis Writing Skills
  o Organisation and Time Management
  o Notetaking
  o Presentation Skills
  o Critical Thinking Skills
  o Exam Preparation

- The Student Learning Centre has also worked collaboratively with Maynooth University, TUD Blanchardstown, and NCAD to provide a number of resources that students can access through the IADT website including:

- o [YouTube channel](#) which hosts a range of online video supports for students on:
  - Writing essays & academic writing
  - Time management & organizational skills
  - Exam Preparations & study tips
  - Referencing
  - Proof-reading

- IADT also provides the following resources to download from its [Resources and Workshops](#) webpage also published by the Student Learning Centre:
  - Academic Phrasing Handout
  - Creating an Essay Plan
  - Grammar Resources
  - Lexicon and Academic Register
  - Writing a Conclusion
  - Essay Checklist
  - Writing an Introduction

- **IADT Library Resources**: All students are provided with a Library induction and a tour of the Library whether they are attending their programme in person or remotely. Students will find a range of collections and services to support their studies—from teaching, learning and research materials to expert help with academic writing skills. The [Library website](#) contains a wide range of guides, videos and support materials. A section of the Library website has been developed specifically for [international students,](#) and Library staff are available to meet international students on a one-to-one basis to offer assistance.

- English language support classes are provided free of charge by IADT, throughout the academic year. The classes are designed to support international students during their studies at IADT and help them to understand lectures, prepare for and complete assignments and improve their verbal and written communication skills. These English language classes are non-credit bearing.

- Students concerned about their English proficiency are encouraged to contact the Student Learning Centre for additional guidance.

7. Exemptions & Special Considerations

- Applicants with documented language impairments may request reasonable accommodations in examinations.
- English language requirements for Irish Immigration purposes (for Non-EU students) are separate from IADT's academic requirements and must be verified independently.

8. Quality Assurance & Policy Review

- This policy will be reviewed every five years to ensure alignment with national and international standards and expectations, including QQI and HEA guidelines.
- English language entry requirements are subject to change based on sectoral benchmarking and international best practice.