



English Language Requirements

Effective from 1 August 2009
(Updated 28 November 2011)

Evidence of English Language

Applicants are required to provide evidence that meets **one** of the following options:

1. Completed their primary and secondary education in English (education must have been completed in the English language) in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom or the United States of America.

(Suitable evidence – school certificates from primary and secondary school, or birth certificate and secondary school results)

2. Completed the equivalent of three years or more full time study at the level of Bachelor Degree or higher in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom or the United States of America.

(Suitable evidence – academic transcripts showing length of course and that course was conducted in English)

3. Has completed at least three years employment as a qualified social worker using English as the primary means of communication in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom or the United States of America.

(Suitable evidence – employment referees)

4. Obtained a score of 7.0 or more in each component (listening, reading, writing and speaking) of the Academic IELTS.

(Suitable evidence – original or certified copy of your ACADEMIC IELTS test report form)

IELTS Requirements

All applicants providing evidence under this criterion must comply with the following standards:

1. The overall band score of the **Academic IELTS must be at least 7.0.**

2. A score of at least 7.0 must be achieved in **each component** (listening, reading, writing and speaking) of the Academic IELTS.

3. The results from each component must be obtained in **one sitting**. The pass results in a module from a previous attempt cannot be carried forward to a subsequent sitting.

(Suitable evidence – original or certified copy of your ACADEMIC IELTS test report form)

IELTS test reports are valid for two years from the date of completing the test. The AASW may accept a test report older than two years under the following conditions:

a) Where there is evidence of active employment in a professional capacity in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom or the United States of America, and this employment commenced when the test result was still valid;

(Suitable evidence – employment referees indicating length of employment)

Or

b) Where there is evidence of study in a bachelor degree level or higher in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom or the United States of America and this study commenced when the test result was still valid.

(Suitable evidence – university transcripts)

Under no circumstances should applicants submit an IELTS test report that does not comply with one of the above conditions.

IELTS is available at testing centres in over 120 countries. The AASW advise applicants to contact IELTS for further information in relation to the IELTS test and test centre locations.

<http://www.ielts.org/>

Transitional Arrangements (for international students in AASW accredited degree courses)

The English language requirement came into effect on 1 August 2009. To reduce the impact on currently enrolled students the following temporary arrangements have been implemented.

Students who are currently enrolled in a course and who cannot provide evidence to meet one of the above criteria can choose to either provide the IELTS test or they can apply for an exemption under the transitional arrangements.

To claim exemption a student must provide a letter from a lecturer or tutor at their University on official University letterhead. The letter must:

- State the student's name,
- Indicate that they were an enrolled student at that institution on 1st April 2009 when AASW announced the new English language requirements,
- The length of time the applicant has been a student at the institution,
- Indicate that the letter's author believes them to be sufficiently competent in English in reading, writing, listening and speaking in order to undertake the role of social worker in an English language environment,
- Indicate the author of the letter's experience with the student's English language in order to make the assessment and provide the exemption support letter.

General Information

The AASW reserves the right to interview any applicant or require further English language testing if there are concerns in relation to the applicant's capacity to communicate at an effective level of English.