

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STANDARDS

Mason students participate in rigorous graduate coursework as part of their university educational experience. Therefore, students at Mason must have a full command of academic English at the graduate level in order to be successful throughout their studies. All new graduate students are expected to accurately comprehend written graduate-level English, clearly understand rapidly spoken English in classroom lectures and in professional settings, write with the proper grammar and syntax, and be able to respond quickly in English using a vocabulary appropriate for collegiate settings.

For this reason, Mason has a high standard of English proficiency for graduate admission. Mason strictly requires all students who have not earned a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree from a regionally accredited university in the United States, Canada (excluding province of Quebec), United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand to take an English proficiency examination to demonstrate academic command of the English language. All applicants must achieve a minimum score set by Mason in order to be considered for admission.* These examinations measure reading, comprehension, writing, and speaking in a way that will allow admissions committees to measure an applicant's graduate-level English proficiency fairly and consistently. This requirement will not be waived for individuals regardless of country of citizenship, the length of time they may have lived in the United States, study of English in another country, or the amount of coursework taken at English language learning organizations.

Decisions regarding English proficiency are the sole discretion of Mason Admissions offices.

Listed below are the English proficiency examinations that Mason accepts and the corresponding minimum score requirements and submission procedures:

TOEFL

IBT	88 points total AND a minimum of 20 points in each section
CBT	230 points
PBT	570 points

IELTS - Academic

6.5 total band score

Pearson Test of English

59 total score

All English proficiency scores are valid for two years from the test date. Official test scores must be provided directly from the testing agency. In general, you may use the institution code 5827 to send your scores to Mason. For IELTS, please make sure you have scores sent to the Mason Office of Graduate Admissions. It is not necessary to use the exact department code as test scores arrive to our institution electronically.

*Individual programs reserve the right to set higher minimum scores.