

Decision

8 June 2026

Case ID TY/1119/2026

Educational Affairs

Coordinator: Johanna Kärki

Research Affairs

Coordinator: Anne Niemimäki

This decision repeals the earlier Rector's decisions made on 21 December 2023 (TY/998/2023) and 20 June 2024 (TY/601/2024)

Demonstration of proficiency in English in the student admissions of the University of Turku

In accordance with the University of Turku Regulation on Studies, when admitting students to pursue a degree, the applicants must demonstrate their language skills in the manner described in the admission criteria. The University follows the methods of demonstrating language proficiency which are defined in the Rector's decision.

Due to legislative regulations as well as for the University's reputation and high quality, the criteria of the admissions process must be transparent and equal. Uniform criteria and methods of demonstrating language proficiency in the entire University clarify the admissions process from the perspectives of the applicant, representatives of the University, and partners, strengthening its reliability. The methods and criteria of demonstrating English language proficiency at the University of Turku are based on national recommendations.

The basis, methods and criteria for demonstrating language proficiency are presented in Annex 1. The methods of demonstrating English language proficiency defined in this document apply to persons applying for English-language education leading to a basic degree and education leading to a scientific postgraduate degree at the University of Turku.

The methods of demonstrating English language proficiency according to this decision will be implemented in student admissions starting from 1 June 2026.

Marjo Kaartinen
Rector

Annex

Methods of demonstrating language proficiency starting from 1 June 2026

Distribution

Faculties
Vice Rectors
Educational Affairs (koto-esimiehet@utu.fi)
Research Career (tutkijanura@utu.fi)
Student Union of the University of Turku

Methods of demonstrating language proficiency starting from 1 June 2026

The methods of demonstrating English language proficiency defined in this document apply to persons applying for English-language education leading to a basic degree and education leading to an academic postgraduate degree at the University of Turku.

When drafting degree programmes that are implemented in collaboration with other higher education institutions, it must be ensured that the language skill requirements of the partner universities are also transparent, predetermined, and commensurable with the requirements of the University of Turku. The minimum requirements of language tests must also be on the same level with those of the University of Turku.

These methods of demonstrating language proficiency are primarily applied to commissioned education as well.

Methods of demonstrating English language proficiency when applying for a bachelor's degree programme

When applying for a bachelor's degree programme, the minimum level of language proficiency (CEFR) is B2. According to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, the level B2.1 is a basic level of independent language proficiency with which the person in question is capable of versatile expression, regular interaction, as well as powerful argumentation. Field-specific vocabulary and academic communication skills develop during the studies, as bachelor's degree programmes include language studies either as separate courses or integrated into the studies of the field.

Demonstrating English language proficiency with earlier studies

You can demonstrate language proficiency in one of the following ways without taking the full matriculation examination (unless the applicant demonstrates language proficiency in the language of the International Baccalaureate Diploma):

Finnish Matriculation Examination:

- English examination completed at advanced syllabus level (A language level) with at least the grade magna cum laude approbatur (M)

IB Diploma Programme:

- programme completed in English
- A-level English test (literature/language and literature/literature and performance) passed
- B-level English test passed with at least grade 5 (good)

In European Baccalaureate Examination:

- L1 language (English) passed
- L2 or L3 language (English) completed with a grade 7 or above

For the RP or DIA examination (Deutsche Schule Helsinki), sufficient English language proficiency deemed to be fulfilled if the applicant has passed English as an A language:

- with a pass mark in writing
- orally with at least grade 8

The applicant can demonstrate their language proficiency with secondary education completed in English in an EU/EEA country, the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand or Switzerland.

The applicant can demonstrate their language proficiency with a degree from a Finnish university or university of applied sciences in which the foreign language proficiency in accordance with the government decree has been demonstrated in English.

In addition, the applicant can demonstrate their language skills with a bachelor's¹, master's, licentiate or doctoral degree conducted in English and completed in an EU/EEA country or in one of the following countries: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Dominica, Cameroon, Canada, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Dominica, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Switzerland, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zimbabwe, Zambia.

When demonstrating language proficiency through an English-language degree, at least half of the degree must have been completed in English, and the language of instruction for the degree must be clearly stated on the degree certificate or transcript of records, or in the Diploma Supplement attached to the degree certificate, or in an official statement from the university that awarded the degree. If the language of instruction is not clearly stated, the applicant must demonstrate their language proficiency by some other method accepted by the University of Turku. A degree completed in English in Australia, Canada, Ghana, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, the United Kingdom (UK) or the United States may be accepted as proof of language proficiency, even if the degree certificate or transcript of records does not specify the language of the degree.

International language tests

If the applicant does not demonstrate their language proficiency with a earlier studies, they have to provide a certificate of a passed language test. Below is a list of accepted language tests and their minimum scores for applicants to *bachelor's degree programmes*.

- TOEFL iBT:
 - o overall score 78, writing test score at least 20 (when the test has been taken before 21 February 2026)

¹ Or an equivalent degree that qualifies you for master's degree studies in that country

- o overall score 4 and score for each test section at least 3.5 (when test has been taken on 21 February 2026 or after that)
 - o My Best Scores results are not accepted.
- IELTS Academic:
 - o overall score at least 6.0 and score for each test section at least 5.5.
 - o One Skill Retake results are accepted.
- PTE Academic:
 - o overall score at least 62 and writing at least 61.
- Cambridge C1 Advanced: at least score C
- Cambridge C2 Proficiency: at least score Level C1
- National Certificates of Language Proficiency (YKI) (English) passed at level 4 in all subtests (reading comprehension, writing, speaking and listening comprehension). You can combine the different examinations.

When language proficiency is demonstrated with a language test, the test result must be available and attached to the application form by the deadline for submitting supplementary information. The test result must be verifiable with the testing organisation for at least one month after the application deadline.

If the applicant is selected on the basis of an SAT test, they do not have to provide a separate certificate of English language proficiency.

Methods of demonstrating English language proficiency when applying for a master's degree programme and academic postgraduate degree

When applying for a master's degree programme and an academic postgraduate degree, the minimum level of language proficiency in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is B2. On the higher half of the level B2, argumentation and interaction in the communication of the student's own field become more efficient and linguistic awareness increases. Communication is fluent and spontaneous and requires no extra effort from either party. Students must possess good skills in academic written and oral expression already at the application phase in order to be able to fully focus on building up their expertise in their own fields from the beginning of their studies in accordance with the objectives of the degrees.

The emphasis of academic postgraduate education is on research, and the courses included in the degree support the skills required of a researcher and expert. Applicants selected for academic postgraduate degree are required to have a good spoken and written command of an international language, which at the University of Turku is primarily English. Therefore, when applying to academic postgraduate education, the proficiency in English has to be demonstrated with earlier studies or a language test. Despite this, an academic postgraduate degree can be completed primarily in Finnish.

Demonstrating English language proficiency with earlier studies

When applying for an *academic postgraduate degree*, language proficiency can be demonstrated with secondary education completed in Finland.

When applying for a *master's degree programme*, language proficiency can be demonstrated in one of the following ways without taking the full matriculation examination (unless the applicant demonstrates language proficiency in the language of the International Baccalaureate Diploma):

Finnish Matriculation Examination:

- English examination completed at advanced syllabus level (A language level) with at least the grade magna cum laude approbatur (M)

IB Diploma Programme:

- programme completed in English
- A-level English test (literature/language and literature/literature and performance) passed
- B-level English test passed with at least grade 5 (good)

In European Baccalaureate Examination:

- L1 language (English) passed
- L2 or L3 language (English) completed with a grade 7 or above

For the RP or DIA examination (Deutsche Schule Helsinki), sufficient English language proficiency deemed to be fulfilled if the applicant has passed English as an A language

- with a pass mark in writing
- orally with at least grade 8

When applying for both *academic postgraduate degrees* and *master's degree programmes*, the applicant can demonstrate their language proficiency with secondary education completed in English in an EU/EEA country, the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand or Switzerland.

When applying for an *academic postgraduate degree*, the applicant can demonstrate their language proficiency with a degree from a Finnish university or university of applied sciences. When applying for a *master's degree programme*, the applicant can demonstrate their language proficiency with a degree from a Finnish university or university of applied sciences in which the foreign language proficiency in accordance with the government decree has been demonstrated in English.

In addition, the applicant can demonstrate their language skills with a bachelor's², master's, licentiate or doctoral degree conducted in English and completed in an EU/EEA country or in one of the following countries: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Dominica, Cameroon, Canada, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Dominica, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone,

² Or an equivalent degree that qualifies you for master's degree studies in that country

Singapore, Switzerland, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zimbabwe, Zambia.

When demonstrating language proficiency through an English-language degree, at least half of the degree must have been completed in English, and the language of instruction for the degree must be clearly stated on the degree certificate or transcript of records, or in the Diploma Supplement attached to the degree certificate, or in an official statement from the university that awarded the degree. If the language of instruction is not clearly stated, the applicant must demonstrate their language proficiency by some other method approved by the University. A degree completed in English in Australia, Canada, Ghana, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, the United Kingdom (UK) or the United States may be accepted as proof of language proficiency, even if the degree certificate or transcript of records does not specify the language of the degree.

International language tests

If the applicant does not demonstrate their language proficiency with a degree, they have to provide a certificate of a passed language test. Below is a list of accepted language tests and their minimum scores which are the same for applicants to *master's degree programmes* and *academic postgraduate degrees*.

- TOEFL iBT:
 - o overall score 92, writing test score at least 22 (when the test has been taken before 21 January 2026)
 - o overall score 4.5 and score for each test section at least 4 (when test has been taken on 21 January 2026 or after that)
 - o My Best Scores results are not accepted
- IELTS Academic:
 - o overall score at least 6.5 and score for each test section at least 6.0
 - o One Skill Retake results are accepted
- PTE Academic:
 - o overall score at least 68 and writing at least 61
- Cambridge C1 Advanced: at least score C
- Cambridge C2 Proficiency: at least score Level C1
- National Certificates of Language Proficiency (YKI) (English) passed at level 5 in all subtests (reading comprehension, writing, speaking and listening comprehension). You can combine the different examinations.

When language proficiency is demonstrated with a language test, the test result must be available and attached to the application form by the deadline for submitting supplementary information. The test result must be verifiable with the testing organisation for at least one month after the application deadline.