



Gold Medal Visa
Accredited Immigration Experts

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English Language Requirements

If you are applying for Skilled Migration, you will need to prove your English language ability. The required level of English depends on the visa subclass you are applying for and there are 4 different levels of English which may be relevant:

Superior English: **20 points** in points test

Proficient English: **10 points** in points test

Competent English: threshold requirement for:

- General Skilled Migration (Subclass 189, 190 and 491)
- Subclass 186 visa Direct Entry stream
- Subclass 494 visa

Vocational English

Functional English: for secondary applicants seeking to avoid paying the English Language Charge

Acceptable English Tests

The IELTS test / IELTS Australia /computer-delivered IELTS is the most common way of evidencing English language ability. Either the Academic or General Training versions of the test are acceptable to the Department of Immigration, but some skills assessing authorities require applicants to sit the Academic version. You will need to obtain a minimum score in each band of the IELTS (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking) in a single sitting.

The Occupational English Test (OET) is also accepted as evidence of proficient and superior levels of English. The OET is only appropriate for medical and allied health professionals.

The Pearson Academic Test of English (Pearson PTE) and TOEFL Internet Based Test (TOEFL iBT) are now accepted for all skilled subclasses. Most state and territory governments also recognise these tests, as do some skills assessment authorities.

The Cambridge Test of English is also accepted from January 2015.

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Validity of English Tests

Tests conducted up to 3 years prior to lodgement of an application will be accepted by the Department of Immigration.

Functional English requires testing to have been done at most 12 months before lodgement.

Levels of English Proficiency

Vocational English

Vocational English is the required level to obtain for RSMS 187 visa through the Temporary Residence Transitional stream for people who have held a TSS visa for 3 years with the employer.

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS (overall 5.5)	5	5	5	5
TOEFL iBT	4	4	14	14
PTE Academic	36	36	36	36
OET	B	B	B	B
Cambridge (CAE)	154	154	154	154

Competent English

For most skilled visas, you will need to show at least Competent English to meet the threshold criteria. Competent English is also required for the 186 Direct and Transition streams. If you hold a passport from one of the following 5 countries, you can establish competent English without completing an English test:

Canada

New Zealand

United Kingdom

United States

Ireland

Otherwise, you would need to complete a recognised English language test and obtain the following score:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS (overall 5.5)	6	6	6	6

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TOEFL iBT	12	13	21	18
PTE Academic	50	50	50	50
OET	B	B	B	B
Cambridge (CAE)	169	169	169	169

Proficient English

If you demonstrate proficient English, this will give you 10 points for English language ability.

Even native English speakers must undertake English language testing to obtain points for proficient English or higher.

Scores required for Proficient English are:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS (overall 5.5)	7	7	7	7
TOEFL iBT	24	24	27	23
PTE Academic	65	65	65	65
OET	B	B	B	B
Cambridge (CAE)	185	185	185	185

Superior English

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS (overall 5.5)	8	8	8	8
TOEFL iBT	28	29	30	26
PTE Academic	79	79	79	79
OET	A	A	A	A
Cambridge (CAE)	200	200	200	200

Functional English

If your spouse or partner has less than functional English, then you would need to pay the “English Education Charge” to cover English language tuition in applying for skilled migration.

You can show you have functional English ability by providing evidence of one of the following:

1. Completion of a degree, higher degree, diploma or trade certificate that required at least 2 years of study in English medium; or
2. Completion of all years of primary education and at least 3 years of secondary education in English medium; or
3. Completion of at least 5 years of secondary education in English medium; or

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4. Scoring at least 4.5 averaged over the four components of the IELTS test within the 12 months before application, or during processing; or
5. Completion in Australia of at least 1 year of full-time study or equivalent part-time study towards a degree, higher degree, diploma, or associate diploma in English medium.

In some circumstances, functional English can be established via interview

You can also demonstrate functional English by completing an English test and scoring as follows:

	Average
IELTS (overall 5.5)	4.5
TOEFL iBT	8
PTE Academic	30
OET	N/A
Cambridge (CAE)	147