

Policy Identifier: English Language Policy

Policy Title:	English Language Policy
Description:	The purpose of this policy is to outline MIE’s fair, transparent and consistent requirements and standards for evaluating the English language ability of international learners applying for admission to MIE, and to describe MIE’s policy and process for English language support for international learners once they are registered.
Author (Position):	International Foundation Programme Manager
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1. Context

Marino Institute of Education aims for the highest standards of quality in all its admission-related activities. A range of policies, procedures and processes exist to support recruitment, admission and retention of international learners in programmes of education and research in MIE. In addition, since 2016, Trinity has validated the International Foundation Programme delivered by Marino Institute of Education for international learners from countries where the secondary school leaving qualification does not allow students to qualify for direct admission into Trinity undergraduate programmes.

The International Education Mark (IEM) is one of a suite of measures designed to protect the interests of learners engaged with the Irish education and training system. The *Higher Education (HE) Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education and Training to International Learners* requires Higher Education providers to develop an English language policy, as part of the authorisation process for the IEM.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline MIE's fair, transparent and consistent requirements and standards for evaluating the English language ability of international learners applying for admission to MIE, and to describe MIE's policy and process for English language support for international learners once they are registered.

3. Benefits

- 3.1 This policy supports the enrolment and admission of suitably qualified students and the creation of a diverse student body.
- 3.2 This policy complements the existing suite of policies, procedures and process that ensure the quality of international recruitment and engagement and specifically complies with the *Higher Education (HE) Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education and Training to International Learners (2023)*.

4. Scope

- 4.1 This policy applies to all programmes of study leading to academic qualifications offered by Marino Institute of education and accredited by Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin.

5. Principles

- 5.1 In order to create a diverse and inclusive student body, MIE seeks to register students with a broad range of talents and the ability to engage with and benefit from education in the Marino tradition.
- 5.2. As an inclusive and responsible HE provider, MIE operates a fair, transparent and consistent admission policy that supports the successful participation of international learners on their chosen courses.
- 5.3. MIE recognises that it is not in the interest of an applicant to be admitted onto a programme of study in which they are unlikely to be successful because of lack of English language competency.

6. Definitions

- 6.1 An international learner is defined as ‘as a person who is not an Irish citizen¹ but is lawfully in the state primarily to receive education and training’.

7. Policy

7.1 Entry Requirements

- 7.1.1. MIE requires international learners to meet certain minimum requirements in English language proficiency in order to ensure successful participation in its programmes. These requirements are outlined in MIE admissions [webpage](#) and in the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Prospectuses.
- 7.1.2. All applicants for whom English is not a first language and who have not been educated through the medium of English must present verifiable evidence of the required level of English language proficiency for their intended course of study as specified in the associated procedures to this policy, as outlined in Appendix 1.

¹ Residents of Northern Ireland are for the purposes of Higher Education recognised as Irish Citizens.

7.2 Minimum Requirements for English Language Proficiency

- 7.2.1. MIE's minimum standard level of English language proficiency required for entry to a degree course leading to an undergraduate or postgraduate award shall normally be a Level CEFR Level B2 or an overall score of 6.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic) or equivalent.
- 7.2.2. Applicants who meet all of the admissions criteria other than the English language requirements receive a conditional offer. The conditions of this offer require achievement of minimum scores in specified English language proficiency tests (refer Appendix 1).

7.3 International Foundation Programme

- 7.3.1 The [International Foundation Programme](#) (IFP) is validated by Trinity and delivered by [Marino Institute of Education](#) (MIE). The IFP is a one-year pre-undergraduate programme, leading to a Level 6 award on the [National Framework for Qualifications](#). It is intended to provide future undergraduates with the appropriate English language and discipline-specific academic and learning skills to prepare them to undertake undergraduate studies in Trinity or other Higher Education Institutions in Ireland or internationally.
- 7.3.2 In respect of the *Higher Education (HE) Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education and Training to International Learners*, Academic Governance for the IFP rests with Trinity College Dublin and is overseen by the MIE Associated College Degree Committee and the IFP Co-ordinating Committee. Specifically, Trinity Global manage the Marketing and Recruitment, Academic Registry manage the Admission and Qualification Recognition, and the IFP Programme Manager manages academic quality under the oversight of Academic Council, the IFP Co-ordinating Committee and MIE-ACDC .
- 7.3.3 To be eligible for the IFP, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria for admissions and present evidence of English proficiency as outlined in Appendix 1 of this policy.

8. Responsibility

- 8.1 The responsibility for this policy lies with the Registrar/ Vice President Academic Affairs.

Appendix 1 Procedures for English Language Provision

Accepted English language proficiency tests

1. The following international English language proficiency tests are accepted by MIE for the purpose of admissions:
 - Cambridge English Qualifications
 - Duolingo English Test
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic)
 - Pearson English International Certification
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
2. English language proficiency tests scores must be dated within two years at the time of application.
3. Minimum scores in these tests are benchmarked according to the descriptions of language proficiency contained in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment* (CEFR).
4. International learners are expected to demonstrate evidence that they have already achieved a minimum of a B2 proficiency level (Independent User) and are equipped to operate through the medium of English as a Proficient User at C1 or C2 level during their academically challenging studies.
5. Specified High School/Secondary Examinations are accepted in lieu of English language proficiency tests.

English language requirements for international learners requirements for undergraduate and postgraduate admissions are:

- **Cambridge English Qualifications**
Minimum overall score of 180 on the Cambridge English scale, i.e. minimum Grade C in Advanced or Proficiency Certificate (UG and PG)

 - **Duolingo English Test**
Minimum overall score of 120, no individual sub-scores below 105 (UG and PG)

 - **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**
Minimum overall score of 6.5 (UG and PG), no individual band below 6 (UG only)

 - **Pearson English International Certification**
Minimum overall score of 63, no section scores below 59 (UG and PG)

 - **Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)**
Minimum overall score of 90 with a minimum score in writing of 21 (UG) or 88 (PG).
6. Applicants who present any of the following High School/Secondary Examinations will not be asked to fulfil the English language requirements by a separate standardised English language proficiency test:
- Irish Leaving Certificate: a grade 6 or better in ordinary level English
 - French Baccalaureate, International Option: 12 with coefficient > 5, 14 with coefficient < 5
 - GCSE: a grade C/5 or better in English
 - US High School: a grade C in English taken in final year
 - International Baccalaureate: English A1, A2 or B: SL4 if presenting IB through English, HL5 if presenting through French or Spanish
 - Hong Kong, HKDSE: Level 4 or better in English Language
 - Malaysia, SPM: Grade C or better in English 1119
7. An applicant can appeal a decision where the qualifications they are presenting for admissions purposes is not recognised by MIE. The appeal should be submitted to

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the Admissions Officer in the first instance and that outcome of the appeal can be escalated, if required, to the Registrar/ Vice President Academic Affairs.

International Foundation Programme

8. To be eligible for the IFP, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria for admissions and present evidence of English language proficiency tests as follows:
 - **Duolingo English Test**
 - Minimum score of 80, no individual sub-scores below 65, with a minimum sub-score of 80 in Literacy

 - **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**
 - Minimum overall score of 5.0, no individual band under 4.5, with a minimum score of 5.0 in Writing

 - **Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)**
 - Minimum score of 64, with a minimum of 16 in Writing.

 9. Certain destination programmes require a higher level of English language proficiency, listed on the IFP's website. The following minimum English language proficiency test scores are required for these programmes:
 - **Duolingo English Test**
 - Minimum score of 105, no individual sub-scores below 95

 - **International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic)**
 - Minimum overall score of 6.0, no individual band under 5.5

 - **Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)**
 - Minimum score of 72, with a minimum of 20 in Writing
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