

## **International Students**

### **English Language Proficiency Policy**

#### **1. Policy Statement**

Kennedy Baptist College is committed to offering educational programs to students from a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures, and languages. The College is responsible for ensuring all students demonstrate a satisfactory proficiency in English to participate in intended study.

English language proficiency refers to an international student's ability to speak, write, read, and comprehend English to a standard relevant to the student's visa requirements.

#### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all prospective and enrolled international students at Kennedy Baptist College. Kennedy Baptist College does not offer English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) or English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

#### **3. Rationale**

English language proficiency is a requirement for certain studying and training visa applications regulated by the Department of Home Affairs. The Department of Home Affairs sets the English language visa requirements.

#### **4. Assessing English Language Proficiency**

The College will assess evidence of English language proficiency submitted by an international student on receipt of their Application for Enrolment Form (registration).

Evidence requirements and validity periods are set at a standard and level relevant to the student's visa requirements and year entry level. This will allow students to participate fully in the academic program for their intended entry year level.

Evidence documentation may include school reports, English language proficiency test results or other similar evidence.

If evidence, after an offer of enrolment, demonstrates that an applicant's English language proficiency is not satisfactory the College has the right to cancel the application for enrolment.

## 5. Standardised English Proficiency Tests

Standardised English proficiency tests assess English language skills across reading, writing, listening and speaking for student visa applicants. The College relies on standardised English proficiency tests as it's main source of evidence for English language proficiency.

International students who have completed a standardised English language proficiency test such as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic) or the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) and **meet** the minimum required level of English language proficiency scores will be considered successful in meeting the English language proficiency.

International students who have completed a standardised English language proficiency test, and who **do not** meet the required level of English language proficiency for their intended year level will not be offered a placement and should undertake an ELICOS (English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students) course at their own expense.

### a. Students 16 years or over

International students 16 years or over must complete a standardised English language proficiency test such as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic) or the Pearson Test of English (PTE Academic) in accordance with the Department of Home Affairs visa requirements. International students under 16 years are also required to meet English language proficiency.

Students entering the College at Years 10 – 12 must achieve an average band score of at least **6.5** for IELTS Academic and a score of at least **53.5** in each of the four skills tested (listening, reading, speaking and writing) for PTE Academic.

### b. Students under 16 years

International students under 16 years also need to demonstrate English language proficiency by completing the Australian Education Assessment Services (AEAS) Test.

Students entering the College at Years 7 – 9 must achieve an average band score of at least **6.0** for IELTS Academic and a score of at least **53.5** in each of the four skills tested (listening, reading, speaking and writing) for PTE Academic.

The minimum AEAS scores required for each secondary school entry year are:

Years 7 – 9:        71 – 79

Years 10 – 12:    80+

The AEAS provide test comparisons against IELTS.

## 6. English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS)

For a student visa the minimum score required to undertake a packaged ELICOS from IELTS is 5.0.

The test score for students undertaking a program of study at Kennedy Baptist College is 6.0 for Years 7 – 9 and 6.5 for Years 10 – 12 (or equivalent).

International students are required to study ELICOS full-time in Australia. Kennedy Baptist College does not offer ELICOS.

## 7. Transferring from another Registered Provider

International students transferring from another registered provider (i.e., secondary College) will be required to submit evidence of English language proficiency. Students may still be required to complete a standardised English proficiency test.

Version control					
Version	Amendments	Date Reviewed	Endorsed by Board	Next Review	Author of version
1		13/07/2017			
2		29/07/2019	30/07/2019	08/2021	
3		24/08/2021	24/11/2021	08/2023	
4		09/06/2022		08/2023	C Acciano
5		27/11/2023	15/05/2024	08/2025	C Acciano
6	Amendments made to purpose to rationale, assessing English language proficiency and standardised English language proficiency.	09/09/2025	17/09/2025	09/2027	C Acciano

## **Appendix 1 Standardised English Language Proficiency Test Providers**

IELTS <https://ielts.org/>

Navitas <https://www.navitasenglish.edu.au/courses/ielts-preparation/>

Pearson <https://www.pearsonpte.com/>

AEAS <https://aeas.com.au/>