

International Students

English Language Proficiency Policy

Policy

Kennedy Baptist College is a quality, coeducational secondary school with students of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and languages. To be offered a placement at the College, international students must demonstrate satisfactory entry-level English language proficiency, to:

- Successfully engage in their studies to achieve academic success.
- Ensure a smoother transition into daily life, school, and adjustment to the Australian culture.
- Experience quality engagement and build relationships, both within and outside the classroom.
- Achieve tertiary entrance using their preferred pathway.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define the prerequisites for English language proficiency and the process for assessing proficiency for international student applicants in accordance with *Standard 2 – Recruitment of an overseas student*, in the *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018*.

English language proficiency refers to an international student's ability to speak, write, read, and comprehend English to a satisfactory standard to be accepted for enrolment at the College.

Kennedy Baptist College does not offer English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) or English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

Scope

This policy applies to international student visa applicants seeking enrolment at Kennedy Baptist College.

Assessing English Language Proficiency

The College will assess evidence of English language proficiency presented by an international student on receipt of their application of interest to enrol.

Requirements are set at a standard that will allow students to participate fully in the academic program for their intended entry year level and the College will restrict enrolment entry to those students who demonstrate satisfactory English language proficiency.

Upon assessment of evidence provided, international students may be required to undergo testing to demonstrate English language proficiency, such as:

- The Phoenix Academy's Internet-based English Proficiency Test (iPEPT); and
- The Australian Education Assessment Services' Test (AEAS).

International students who have completed the iPEPT test and meet the required level of English language proficiency may be requested to complete the more comprehensive AEAS test. Where required AEAS minimum scores are achieved, the student will be considered successful in meeting the English language proficiency.

International students who have completed the iPEPT test, and who do not meet the required level of English language proficiency for their intended year level are required to undertake an ELICOS (English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students) course at their own expense.

An AEAS test will be required within the final five (5) weeks of ELICOS or as agreed. As the course may take several weeks, enrolment at the College will depend on a place being available upon completion of the course.

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.

Standardised Testing

Standardised testing for English language proficiency will consist of Phoenix Academy's iPEPT test and / or the Australian Education Assessment Services' (AEAS) Test.

1. Phoenix Academy Internet-based English Proficiency Test (iPEPT)

The College requires an initial General iPEPT be conducted via Perth-based company, Phoenix Academy. This is an online test that assesses English grammar, vocabulary, reading, listening, and writing. The Phoenix Academy General iPEPT test is AUD\$60 (<https://www.phoenix.wa.edu.au/>). Students must submit a copy of current iPEPT results at the time of application to enrol.

Refer to *Appendix A* for the English language proficiency levels required for each secondary school entry year, adapted from the Phoenix Academy's Level Descriptors.

Results

The results of the General iPEPT might indicate that a student is not proficient and will then be advised to attend an ELICOS.

Within the final five (5) weeks of ELICOS or as agreed, prior to starting at the College, international students are required to submit an AEAS test result to demonstrate satisfactory English language proficiency.

2. Australian Education Assessment Services (AEAS) Test

AEAS provides testing specifically for primary and secondary school students, from non-English language backgrounds, wishing to study in Australian schools. The AEAS (<https://aeas.com.au/>) test costs approximately AUD\$500 – \$600.

Results

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

Years 7 and 8: AEAS 61+

Years 9 and 10: AEAS 71+

Years 11 and 12: AEAS 80+

Failure to demonstrate competency in their AEAS test results will require the international student to study ELICOS (and a further AEAS test) and will delay enrolment at the College.

English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS)

Phoenix Academy's iPEPT and / or AEAS test results will ascertain a student's English language proficiency and, if applicable, suggest the recommended number of weeks of ELICOS the student requires to achieve entry-level proficiency.

International students are required to study ELICOS full-time in Australia.

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 an iPEPT or AEAS 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

APPENDIX A: Phoenix Academy English Language Proficiency Requirements

ESL Level	CEFR Level Descriptors (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Global Scale)		Expected Progress	PTE-A Score	Approx IELTS Equiv.	Recommended ESL Entry Level to:
CEFR Level						
Intermediate 1 B1	Vocational	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.	12 weeks		4	High School Year 7/8/9
Intermediate 2 B1+			6 – 8 weeks	40 – 45	5	High School Year 10
Upper-Intermediate 1 B2	Academic	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions on his / her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interactions with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.	6 – 8 weeks	46 – 51	5.5	High School 11/12 Foundation Dip. Bus/TAFE/VTE
Pre-Advanced B2+			6 – 8 weeks	52 – 58	6	Bachelor Degree

Note:

1. CEFR – Common European Framework of Reference: Global Scale
2. PEPT – Phoenix English Proficiency Test
3. CEFR / IELTS equivalencies based on CEFR published equivalencies.
4. These approximate IELTS scores are only estimates and do not represent true IELTS results which can only be ascertained and awarded as a result of a student undertaking an IELTS test (academic module) at an official IELTS test centre.
5. Progress – the anticipated weeks of study at an ESL level (will vary depending on individual circumstances e.g., commencing language level; home environment; commitment to learning; age and cultural differences).