

English language proficiency requirements for registration

Policy

Purpose	To outline the English language proficiency (ELP) requirements for applicants for provisional or full registration.
Rationale	The Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) needs to decide whether an applicant has met all professional practice requirements, including ELP requirements.
Scope	<p>This policy applies to applicants for registration under section 14 of the <i>Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005</i> (the Act) who did not undertake the entire four years of higher education study required for registration in English in an exempt country¹.</p> <p>This policy does not apply to persons who apply for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• registration under mutual recognition• permission to teach.

Policy statement

Under sections 8 and 9 of the Act, a person is eligible for registration if they meet eligibility requirements, which include professional practice requirements.

Regulations 7 and 9 of the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016 (the Regulation) specify

'the ability to communicate in spoken and written English at a professional level with students, parents, teachers and other persons'

as a professional practice requirement.

The nationally consistent ELP requirements for registration are outlined in the [Framework for Teacher Registration in Australia](#) (the Framework). The Framework was revised in 2024. This policy aligns with the ELP requirements of the revised Framework.

Applicants for registration are required to provide evidence of ELP suitable for a teacher working in education settings.

Evidence is provided in the form of English language test results as follows:

- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**
An IELTS (Academic) assessment across all four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing – with a score of no less than 7 in reading and writing and a score of no less than 8 in speaking and listening, or
- **International Second Language Proficiency Rating (ISLPR)**
An ISLPR assessment across all four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing with a score of level 4 in all four areas, such assessments to be deemed valid only if provided by approved testing sites where the assessment is teacher focused.

The date of the assessment must be no more than three years prior to the date that the application for registration is received.

The QCT may also consider other information, including qualifications, training or experience undertaken in an exempt country and supported by evidence which demonstrates ELP at a professional level, to the satisfaction of the QCT.²

Applicants who had previously been granted provisional or full registration with the QCT³

Where an applicant had been previously granted registration with the QCT, the requirement to provide evidence of ELP will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Factors taken into consideration will be, whether the applicant:

- is a recent or current holder of registration with the QCT
- met ELP policy requirements in place at the time they were previously granted registration
- has recent teaching experience in a school or other relevant experience in an exempt country
- has resided in an exempt country for significant periods of time since they were previously granted registration
- provides evidence that demonstrates ELP at a professional level, including qualifications, training or experience undertaken in an exempt country.

Granting registration with a condition

The QCT may grant an application for registration with a condition only if the QCT is reasonably satisfied the condition is necessary to ensure the applicant meets the eligibility requirements. A condition includes a condition to meet ELP requirements.

¹ Exempt countries are currently Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales), Republic of Ireland and United States of America. These are the countries accepted under Australian migration policy as not requiring English language proficiency assessment.

² The QCT has developed guidelines regarding consideration of other information which may demonstrate ELP.

³ The QCT has developed guidelines regarding the ELP requirements for applicants who had previously been granted registration by the QCT.

Definitions

Nil required

Legislation

Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005

- Sections 8 and 9 – Eligibility for registration
- Section 20 – How college may decide application

Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016

- Regulations 7 and 9 – Additional requirement for professional practice for registration

Delegations

The QCT Director is delegated to issue an Approval Notice or Information Notice under Section 21 of the Act.

Supporting documents

Framework for Teacher Registration in Australia (AITSL August 2024)
Guidelines – ELP requirements for applicants previously granted provisional or full registration with the QCT
Guidelines – Consideration of ELP evidence other than English language test results


Review date

October 2027

Approval

QCT Board

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