

## English Language Policy

### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the English Language requirements for registration with the Teacher Registration Board (TRBWA). This policy does not address the English language requirements for Limited Registration, which is the subject a separate policy (Limited Registration: English Language Policy)

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all applications for Full, Provisional and Non Practising Registration. To be eligible for registration a person must meet English language requirements to be registered as a teacher. The TRBWA may not grant registration unless it is satisfied that this requirement is met.

The policy applies to all TRBWA staff and Board members involved in the registration and regulation of teachers in Western Australia.

### 3. Background

A key requirement of registration is to ensure that the applicant has the necessary English language skills to teach in a Western Australian school.

For registration as a teacher in the Full, Provisional and Non-Practising categories, the English requirements are prescribed in regulations 10(2) to 10(4). The applicant must demonstrate that one of the following 3 requirements are met:

The applicant has, within the period of 2 years before applying for registration under section 10 —

**Either:**

- (a) undertaken the International English Language Testing System (Academic) test and achieved —
  - (i) an average of level 7.5 or more across the 4 components of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and
  - (ii) no score below level 7 in any of those components; and
  - (iii) a score of level 8 or more in the components of speaking and listening;

**Or**

- (b) undertaken the Professional English Assessment for Teachers test and achieved Band A in each of the components of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

**Or**

The applicant has undertaken all of the components of a teaching qualification referred to in section 15(a) or 16(a) of the Act, as are relevant to the application, in the English language in one or more of the following countries —

- (a) Australia;
- (b) New Zealand;
- (c) the United Kingdom;

- (d) the United States of America;
- (e) Canada;
- (f) the Republic of Ireland.

**Or**

In the opinion of the Board —

- (a) exceptional circumstances exist in relation to the applicant; and
- (b) the applicant's English language skills, both written and oral, are suitable for registration.

## **4. Policy**

### **4.1 Meeting the requirement through IELTS or PEAT**

The required results of an IELTS or PEAT test must be achieved in one sitting. Results drawn from more than one sitting are not acceptable to the TRBWA.

### **4.2 Meeting the requirement through undertaking a teaching qualification in prescribed countries.**

An applicant who can demonstrate that they have undertaken, and successfully completed, in English, all units of an initial teacher education programme or a qualification that has been determined by the Board to be equivalent, will meet the English language requirements.

The qualification must have been undertaken and completed in one of the prescribed countries, namely Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada or the Republic of Ireland.

### **4.3 Evidence**

The applicant is to supply information that satisfies either of the above mentioned criteria (4.1 and 4.2)

The applicant is able to apply for exceptional circumstances by submitting their case and supporting evidence as part of their application.

### **4.4 Exceptional Circumstances**

An applicant who does not meet the English language requirements through testing or completing a teaching qualification in an exempt country may submit evidence of exceptional circumstances. Evidence must be submitted in support of the exceptional circumstances claim.

The 'exceptional circumstances' avenue of meeting English language requirements does not operate to lower the language requirements for registration. It is intended to apply to those applicants who, although not able to meet requirements under other categories, clearly demonstrate sufficient English language to be registered as a teacher.

The Board may grant the applicant exceptional circumstances if in the opinion of the Board:

- exceptional circumstances exist in relation to the applicant
- the applicant's English language skills, both written and oral, are suitable for registration.

The exceptional circumstances provision is intended to address circumstances where to require a person to undertake a formal test of English proficiency would be unreasonable due to the applicant's native, near native or fluent level of English.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors the TRBWA may take into account when considering a claim of exceptional circumstances:

- the extent of the applicant’s period of study in English
- the extent of any English or English Literature units completed as part of their study
- the extent of the applicant’s experience of teaching in English and the ability to demonstrate having met professional standards
- whether work experience relied on was undertaken in English
- the result of any previous IELTS/PEAT test completed **more** than two years prior to applying to the TRBWA
- the quality of any references produced including evidence of the relevant authority and knowledge of the referee(s)
- any other information the Board considers appropriate.

Exceptional circumstances will not be accepted by the Board if to do so would put at risk the professional, competent and safe practice of teaching by the registered teacher.

A recommendation to refuse an exceptional circumstances application is to be referred to the Board for decision.

#### 4.5 Delegations

The Director is delegated the authority to approve exceptional circumstances. The Director shall consider the documentation submitted relating to both the existence of exceptional circumstances and the suitability of the applicant’s English language.

### 5. Supporting information

- *Teachers Registration Act 2012*
- *Teacher Registration (General) Regulations 2012*

### 6. Change History

Approved	Version	Details	Approved By
16/5/2013	1	New Policy Issued	Board
Next Review Date		16/5/2015	