

# English Language Policy

(For Full and Provisional Registration)

POL2

## 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the English language requirements in respect of Provisional (Graduate Teacher), Provisional (Returning Teacher) and Full Registration.

## 2. Scope

This policy does not address the English language requirements for Limited Registration, which are the subject of a separate policy (*English Language Policy (For Limited Registration)*).

## 3. Background

The Board operates within the authority of the *Teacher Registration Act 2012* (Act).

The Act prescribes the requirements for the teacher registration scheme and the powers of the Board in exercising its functions in relation to these matters. A key requirement of registration is to ensure that the applicant has the necessary English language skills to teach in a Western Australian school or other educational institution.

For registration as a teacher in the Full, Provisional (Graduate Teacher) and Provisional (Returning Teacher) categories, the English requirements are prescribed in the *Teacher Registration (General) Regulations* (Regulations) 10(2) to 10(4).

The applicant must demonstrate that one of the following requirements is met:

*The applicant has, within the period of 2 years before applying for registration under section 10 of the Act, undertaken the International English Language Testing System (Academic) test and achieved —*

- (a) an average of level 7.5 or more across the 4 components of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and*
- (b) no score below level 7 in any of those components; and*
- (c) a score of level 8 or more in the components of speaking and listening;*

**Or**

*The applicant has undertaken all of the components of a teaching qualification referred to in section 18A(1)(a)(i) or (ii) or (b) 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; or*
- (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**

In order to be granted registration by the Board, the applicant must demonstrate their English Language proficiency by meeting one of the requirements as follows.

### **4.1 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 a teaching qualification accepted under section 18A of the Act will meet the English language requirements. The qualification must have been undertaken and completed in one of the following prescribed countries:

- Australia;
- New Zealand;
- United Kingdom;
- United States of America;
- Canada; or
- the Republic of Ireland.

### **4.2 Meeting the requirement through the completion of an English language proficiency test.**

For the purposes of Regulation 10(2), the International English Language Testing System (Academic) (IELTS) test is the acceptable form of English language proficiency testing for the purpose of teacher registration.

In terms of the IELTS, the following criteria must be met to satisfy the English language requirements for registration:

- The applicant has, within the period of 2 years before applying for registration:
  - undertaken the IELTS (Academic) test and achieved:
    - an average of level 7.5 or more across the 4 components of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and
    - no score below level 7 in any of those components; and
    - a score of level 8 or more in the components of speaking and listening.

### **4.3 Teachers currently or previously registered in Western Australia**

Where a teacher is currently registered in the category of Non-Practising Registration, they are considered to meet the English language requirements for Full Registration, Provisional (Graduate Teacher) or Provisional (Returning Teacher) Registration.

Where a teacher has previously been registered by the Board in the categories of Full, Provisional Registration or Non-Practising Registration, or by the Western Australian College of Teaching in the categories of Registered Teacher or Provisionally Registered Teacher, the teacher is considered to meet the English language requirements for Full Registration or Provisional (Graduate Teacher) or Provisional (Returning Teacher) Registration.

#### 4.4 Exceptional circumstances

The exceptional circumstances provision is intended for registration applicants with such a high level of English language proficiency that it would be unreasonable and unnecessary to require them to complete a formal English proficiency test.

This option is aimed primarily at native or near-native users of the English language, born and/or raised in a country where English is the first language, and who speak/use English as their first language on a daily basis.

These applicants would generally meet the English language requirements as a result of having completed their teacher education in one of the prescribed countries (see 4.1 above). The exceptional circumstances provision is intended to address the rare circumstance where a native or near-native English language user has not completed their teacher education in one of the prescribed English-speaking countries.

Exceptional circumstances will generally be considered to exist when it is abundantly clear that a person's English language proficiency is at such a high level that to require a demonstration of their English language proficiency through a formal test of English would be unnecessary and unreasonable.

In all other cases, applicants whose teacher education was completed outside a prescribed country must demonstrate English language requirements by undertaking an IELTS (Academic) test.

It is important to note that the 'exceptional circumstances' avenue of meeting English language requirements does not operate to lower the English language requirements for registration. It represents a high threshold and is intended to apply to those applicants who clearly demonstrate the requisite English language proficiency for registration as a teacher, without the need to undertake a formal test.

When considering whether exceptional circumstances exist, the Board will have regard to all factors and supporting evidence relevant to the question of an applicant's English language. This may include, but is not limited to, information relating to a person's educational and employment history in an English-speaking environment, references attesting to the applicant's level of English language and interactions with the applicant during the application process.

This policy describes the Board's approach to exceptional circumstances with respect to applications for the Full and Provisional categories of registration. Please refer to the *English Language Policy (For Limited Registration)* for the Board's approach to exceptional circumstances with respect to applications for Limited Registration.

#### 5. Supporting information

- [Teachers Registration Act 2012](#)
- [Teacher Registration \(General\) Regulations 2012.](#)
- [English Language Policy \(For Limited Registration\)](#)

## 6. Change History

Approved	Version	Details	Approved By
16/5/2013	1	New Policy Issued	Board
18/10/2023	2	Amended in line with changes to the Act	Board
Next Review Date		3 years	