

English Language Policy

(For Limited Registration)

POL4

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the English language requirements that must be met in order for Limited Registration to be granted by the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia (Board).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all applications for Limited Registration in relation to English language requirements.

This policy does not address the English language requirements for Full, Provisional (Graduate Teacher) and Provisional Registration (Returning Teacher), which are the subject of a separate policy (*English Language Policy (For Full or Provisional 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.

For Limited Registration, the English language requirements are prescribed in Regulation 11 of the *Teacher Registration (General) Regulations 2012* (Regulations).

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

The nominee has, within the period of 2 years before the application for registration under section 10 of the Act is made —

- (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:

The nominee has undertaken all of the components of a requirement under regulation 12(2)(a), (b) or (e) 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:

If the teaching position is to teach, or to teach in, a language other than English, the nominee has —

- (a) within the period of 2 years before the application for registration under section 10 of the Act is made, undertake the test referred to in subregulation (2); and*
- (b) achieved a result that the Board is satisfied is sufficient for the nominee to adequately perform the duties of the teaching position.*

Or

In the opinion of the Board —

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

Or

If the teaching position is to teach, or to teach in, an Indigenous language —

- (a) the nominee is an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander; and*
- (b) the applicant has informed the Board in writing that the applicant is satisfied that the nominee's English language skills are suitable for the teaching position.*

4. Definitions

Applicant	The applicant is the employer – the person responsible for appointing, employing or engaging registered teachers at the institution or giving registered teachers permission to teach at the institution.
Nominee	A nominee is a person nominated by an employer for a teaching position at an educational institution under Limited Registration.

5. Policy

In order to be granted Limited Registration by the Board, a nominee must demonstrate their English Language proficiency by meeting one of the following criteria.

5.1 Meeting the requirement through undertaking a qualification in English in a prescribed country

A nominee who can demonstrate that they have undertaken, and successfully completed, all components of a qualification in English in one of the prescribed countries, will meet the English language requirements.

Relevant qualifications may include:

- a teaching qualification that contains a professional teacher training component consisting of at least six months of full-time study; or

- a university qualification consisting of at least six months of full-time study that is relevant to the teaching position.

5.2 Meeting the requirement through the completion of an English language proficiency test.

For the purposes of Regulation 11(2), the International English Language Testing System (Academic) (IELTS) test is the acceptable form of English language proficiency testing for Limited Registration.

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

The nominee has, within the period of 2 years before applying for registration:

- undertaken the IELTS 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.

5.3 Meeting the English language requirement where the teaching position is to teach, or to teach in, a language other than English.

A nominee who has been offered a position to teach, or to teach in, a language other than English (LOTE) may demonstrate the requisite English language skills if they have achieved an IELTS (Academic) result that the Board considers to be sufficient to undertake the duties of the teaching position.

In terms of the IELTS, the following would be sufficient for the purposes of this provision:

- An IELTS (Academic) test result with:
 - an average of level 6 or more across the four components of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and
 - no score below level 5.5 in any of those components; and
 - a score of level 6.5 or more in the components of speaking and listening.

An IELTS test result that does not meet the above level may be determined to be sufficient subject to a declaration from the school principal stating that the person's test result and the person's English language ability is sufficient to adequately perform the duties of the teaching position.

Where the Board has approved a person's IELTS results as sufficient for LOTE Limited Registration (or LOTE Limited Authority to Teach), then those results, for that particular person, would continue to be deemed to be 'sufficient' for registration.

5.4 Exceptional Circumstances

The exceptional circumstances provision is intended to address circumstances where to require a person to undertake a formal test of English proficiency is considered by the Board to be unreasonable or unnecessary, having regard to the nominee's level of English language proficiency in the context of the teaching position.

The 'exceptional circumstances' avenue of meeting English language requirements does not operate to lower the English language requirements for Limited Registration. It is intended to apply to those nominees who may not have met other legislative criteria (because, for example, they have not undertaken an IELTS test) but clearly demonstrate a level of English language proficiency that is appropriate to undertake the duties of the teaching position.

When considering whether exceptional circumstances exist, the Board will have regard to all factors and supporting evidence relevant to the question of a nominee'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 nominee's level of English language, supporting information from the employer of the teacher regarding their English language proficiency in the context of the position and interactions with the nominee during the application process.

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

5.5 Meeting the requirement for teachers of, or in, an indigenous language

A nominee who has been offered a position to teach, or to teach in, an indigenous language may demonstrate the requisite English language skills if they are an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander, and the employer or school has advised the Board that the person's English language skills are suitable for the position.

The employer or school must advise the Board in writing.

6. Supporting information

- [Teacher Registration Act 2012](#)
- [Teacher Registration \(General\) Regulations 2012](#)
- [English Language Policy \(For Full or Provisional Registration\)](#)

7. Change History

Approved	Version	Details	Approved By
16/5/2013	1	New Policy Issued	Board
07/04/2015	1.1	Nominee and applicant definitions added	Director
11/01/2021	1.2	Amended information in Section 2, Section 3 (requirement 5) and Sections 4.1 and 4.4	A/Director
18/10/2023	2	Updated to align with the amended Act	Board
Next Review Date		3 years	