

English language requirement for Citizenship

If you have Indefinite Leave to Remain - as a refugee, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave

Unless an exemption applies, you must meet the English language requirement.

You are exempt if at the date of application for settlement any of the following apply:

- You are aged 65 or over, or
- You have provided evidence that you have a physical or mental condition which prevents you from speaking or learning English to the required standard

Nationals of majority English-Speaking countries are considered automatically to meet the English language requirement and do not need to show a formal speaking and listening qualification. The list of countries is available at www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-koll



You can prove your knowledge of English by having either:

English language qualification

You will meet the English language requirement if you have provided

- a valid digital reference number
- from an approved provider
- showing you have passed an approved English language test
- to the required level
- in the two years before the date of application

Required level

At least level B1 CERF
(Common European Framework of Reference)

Approved test and provider

If you are in the UK, you must take a secure English language test (SELT) with one of the below providers. Tests cost between £150-£200.

- Trinity College London
'Secure English Language Tests for UKVI' – Integrated Skills in English (ISE) or Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE)
- Pearson
'PTE Academic UKVI' or 'PTE Home'
- IELTS SELT Consortium
'IELTS for UKVI' or 'IELTS Life Skills'
- LanguageCert
International ESOL SELT

OR

Academic qualification

You can prove your knowledge of English by having a degree that was taught or researched in English.

Your degree must be academic. You cannot use a vocational degree as proof.

If your degree is from a UK university, you only need your degree certificate.

If your degree is not from a UK university, you will need:

- A copy of your degree certificate
- An Academic Qualification Level Statement (AQUALS)

If your degree is from a non-majority English speaking country you will also need an English Language Proficiency Statement (ELPS).

The requirement must be proven by providing the original degree certificate

If you are awaiting graduation or no longer have the certificate and cannot get a new one, you must provide an original:

- academic reference
- academic transcript

More information on Tests:

www.gov.uk/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt



More information on academic qualification:

www.gov.uk/english-language/degrees-in-english



This is a simplification of the Knowledge of Life in UK requirement for citizenship if you have indefinite leave to remain (refugee, humanitarian protection or Discretionary Leave). (Updated October 2023) For detailed guidance see the Knowledge of language and life UK Home Office Caseworker guidance.

