

English Language Proficiency Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the English Language requirements for registration with the Teachers Registration Board of Tasmania.

2. Legislation

Section 13 of the *Teachers Registration Act 2000* (the Act) states that an applicant for registration must, in the opinion of the Board, be sufficiently proficient in the English language. In accordance with section 7A of the Act, in assessing a person's eligibility to teach, good character and/or fitness to teach, the welfare and best interests of students will be considered of paramount importance.

3. Policy statement

All applicants for registration are required, as a condition of eligibility for teacher registration, to satisfy the Board or Board Officer with the delegated authority, that they have a level of English proficiency that enables them to communicate in English at a professional level with students, parents, colleagues, and other educational professionals.

4. Procedures and guidelines

Applicants who have completed a minimum of 4 years of their tertiary education (including a recognised initial teacher education qualification) in one of the countries/institutions listed below are regarded as automatically meeting this requirement:

- Australia
- Canada (where the applicant has completed tertiary studies in English)
- New Zealand
- Republic of Ireland
- United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales)
- United States of America

Board requirements for applicants from other countries/institutions

An applicant who do not qualify under the above provisions must meet the following English Language proficiency requirements:

- an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic assessment - a minimum score of 7 is needed in reading and writing - a minimum score of 8 is needed in speaking and listening with an overall band score of at least 7.5 across all four skill areas.

IELTS One Skill Retake

IELTS One Skill Retake enables you to retake any one component of the test (listening, reading, writing or speaking) if you need to improve in one area, without redoing all four sections.

Currency of Assessment

The date of the IELTS or One Skill Retake assessment must be no more than two years prior to the time of application for registration.

Sitting the IELTS Test

- International English Language Testing System - www.ielts.org
- Applicants located in Tasmania can contact - P: +61 03 6324 5473 | E: IELTS.Tas@utas.edu.au

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

If an applicant has been granted RPL for any period of study, and that study was undertaken in a country other than those previously identified, the applicant will be asked to meet the English Language Proficiency requirements.

Exceptional Circumstances

An applicant who does not meet the English Language proficiency requirements as outlined in this policy may submit evidence of exceptional circumstances and request an exemption from completing an English language test.

Consideration of exceptional circumstances does not operate to lower the English Language proficiency requirements for registration. Its intent is to provide an option to applicants who can clearly demonstrate sufficient English language to be registered as a teacher.

The Board may grant an applicant an exemption where it can be demonstrated that:

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

The exceptional circumstances provision is intended to provide an option to an applicant where it would be unreasonable for them to undertake a test to satisfy English language requirements where native, near native or fluent levels of English exist.

The onus is on the applicant to provide sufficient evidence to enable the Board to grant an exemption. Submitting a request for consideration of exceptional circumstances is not a guarantee that an exemption from completing an English language test will be granted.

5. Related policies

Applying for Registration Policy

6. Related documents

See all Board policies on our website Visit <https://www.trb.tas.gov.au>

7. Privacy and Confidentiality

Board Officers will only have access to the information that is necessary for them to carry out their work functions. All Board Officers are bound by confidentiality requirements. The Board manages all information in accordance with the [Personal Information Protection Act 2004](#).

8. Legislation

Teachers Registration Act 2000 – [Section 13\(2\)\(d\)](#)

9. Document History

Version	Details	Approved by	Approval date
1.0	Policy established	Board	27 June 2017
2.0	Reviewed by Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Skill retake • Recognition of prior learning • Exceptional circumstances 	Board	24 August 2023
3.0	Removal of ISLPR assessment	CEO	5 August 2024

10. Authorisation History

Authorised by	Deputy Director, Teachers Registration Board
Contact	trb@trb.tas.gov.au
Version	3.0
Last significant review	August 2024
Review date	March 2026