

Language requirements

Entrance requirements for admission to higher education consists of both education requirements and language proficiency requirements in English and Norwegian. This appendix provides an overview of the language requirements, and how the requirements can be documented.

Proof of English proficiency

When looking at each country's educational system, the level of English is a special consideration. For each country, the GSU list indicates if there is an English language skills requirement or not. If a country is listed with *English requirement Yes*, refer to the list below to see what is required. Some countries or certain group of applicants may be exempted from the English requirements, and this is indicated with a number after Yes (1, 2, 3 and 4). For the exemptions, see below.

Applicants who do not meet the English proficiency requirements may take one of the following tests/courses:

- Completed and passed English course (140 hours per year / 5 hours per week) at the Norwegian upper secondary school
- Tests:
 - ◆ Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 60 for an internet-based test (iBT) or 500 for a paper-based test (PBT)
 - ◆ International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) Academic test with a minimum score of 5.0
 - ◆ Pearson PTE Academic test with a minimum score of 51 points
 - ◆ The European Language Certificate - telc:
 - telc English B2
 - telc English B2-C1 University
 - all telc English certificates on C1- level
- University of Cambridge examinations:
 - ◆ First Certificate in English
 - ◆ Certificate in Advanced English
 - ◆ Certificate of Proficiency in English

In addition, applicants will have proof of sufficient English proficiency if they have:

- ◆ Completed at least one-year studies at high school or in higher education in the United States, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Australia or New Zealand. The place of instruction must have been in one of these countries and the language of instruction must have been English.
- ◆ Completed a university degree in English language and literature, where the subject English has a scope of at least 60 ECTS or equivalent.
- ◆ Completed a master's degree where the language of instruction was English

In exceptional cases applicants may provide proof of English proficiency in other ways.

Exemption Yes 1) List of European countries with English requirement where English from high school meets the English language requirement:

Austria	The English language requirement is met by English in Reifeprüfung, Matura or Reifeprüfungszeugnis
Belgium, Flemish-speaking	The English language requirement is met by English in ASO (Algemeen Secundair Onderwijs).
Belgium, French-speaking	The English language requirement is met by English in General secondary education (Certificat d'Enseignement Secondaire Supérieur).

Bulgaria	The English language requirement is met by Engelsk as the first foreign language in Diploma za Sredno Obrazovanie (Диплома за средно образование)
Estonia	From 2014: English is met by English B1 or B2 at Lõputunnistus or Riigieksamitunnistus. 1997-2013: State exam in English at Riigieksamitunnistus passed with at least 51 points also meets the English requirement.
France	The English language requirement is met by English in the secondary school leaving certificate (baccalauréat).
Germany	The English language requirement is met by English in Zeugnis der Allgemeinen Hochschulreife (Abitur)
Hungary	The English language requirement is met if you have finished secondary school after 2005 and have English specialization; emelt szintű érettségi vizsga
Latvia	State exam in English with at least B1 level at Vispārējās vidējās izglītības sertifikāts
Lithuania	The English language requirement is met by English at A-level in Brandos atestatas
Netherlands	The English language requirement is met by English in HAVO or VWO.
Poland	The English language requirement is met if you have finished secondary school after 2005 have English specialization; poziom rozszerzony
Romania	English exam with at least B1 level in all five parts of the exam.
Slovakia	After 2005: The English language requirement is met by English in Vysvědčenie o maturitnej skúske
Slovenia	The English language requirement is met by English as first foreign language in Spricevalo o splošni maturi or Spricevalo o poklicni maturi.
Switzerland	The English language requirement is met by English in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maturitätszeugnis • Certificat de Maturité • Baccalauréat • Attestato di Maturità

Exemption Yes 2) Applicants who have obtained a Bachelor's degree from the home country with English as the language of instruction are exempted from the test.

Exemption Yes 3) Applicants who have passed an A-level examination in English may be exempted.

Exemption Yes 4) The English language requirement is satisfied if you have English as "language 1" or "language 2" in your EB diploma.

Documentation of Norwegian language proficiency

All applicants with education outside the Nordic region must document sufficient knowledge of Norwegian, cf. §§ 2- 2 of the Regulations relating to admission to universities and university colleges, as prescribed by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, 31 January 2007.

Norwegian language proficiency must be documented by passing one of the following examinations:

- examination in Norwegian / Norwegian as a second language on the “Vg3-level” (393 hours) from Norwegian upper secondary school
- level 3 examination in Norwegian for foreign students at Norwegian universities
- examination from the 1-year course in Norwegian language and culture for foreign students, taken at a university or a university college
- Test of Norwegian, advanced level (known as “Bergenstesten”) with a score of at least 450, or with “Pass” mark after the introduction of the new scoring system beginning fall 2009.
- Norwegian test for adult immigrants from Kompetanse Norge with result B2 in all four parts

Universities and university colleges may accept other proof of Norwegian language skills.

Applicants from the other Nordic countries with qualifications granting general admission to higher education in their home country, and who have studied their native language at the most advanced level at upper secondary school are not required to take a Norwegian language proficiency test.

If you are missing one year or two years of university education to satisfy the Higher Education Entrance Qualification (GSU), you can only meet the Norwegian language requirement with the examination in Norwegian or Norwegian as a second language at Vg3 level (393 hours) in Norwegian secondary schools. In other words, you cannot take the other options for Norwegian language examination in order to satisfy the Higher Education Entrance Qualification.

The Norwegian language requirement can also be satisfied if you have completed a 9- or 10-year primary and lower secondary school education in Norwegian or another Nordic language as the language of instruction. This must be documented with the corresponding school diploma and in addition with a confirmation stating that you attended each grade of the Norwegian or Nordic language primary and lower secondary school education.

