

Northwood University English Proficiency Policy for International Students

The Northwood University policy regarding English Proficiency for international students shall be as follows and is in effect immediately following the date of adoption:

I. Waiver of English proficiency requirement

The university will waive the English proficiency requirement for:

- 1) students who have resided for at least three years within and are citizens of a country where English is the, or one of, the official languages (e.g., Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland) as designated in the CIA World factbook at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2098.html>;
- 2) students who have completed all coursework for an accredited Associate of Arts (AA) degree conducted **entirely** in English;
- 3) students who come from an accredited educational program where the student has been enrolled full-time and taken at least two years of post-secondary instruction conducted **all** in English.

In all cases, students must be able to provide documentation (which includes official transcripts) verifying these conditions.

II. Evidence of English proficiency

As evidence of language proficiency, Northwood University (NU) accepts scores from:

- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System)
- STEP (Japanese exam)
- UCLES Cambridge exams
- International Baccalaureate (IB) exams.
- ELS Language Centers (Level 112)

Following are the English Language proficiency requirements for regular admission to Northwood University based on official test scores from each testing service:

TOEFL

	Paper-based	Computer-based total(CBT)	Internet-based (iBT)
Undergraduate	500	173	61
Graduate	550	213	80

IELTS

Undergraduate	Minimum overall band score of 6.0
Graduate	Minimum overall band score of 7.0

STEP (Japanese based exam)

Undergraduate	Pre-1 st Grade Level
Graduate	Grade 1

International Baccalaureate

Undergraduate	Score of 5 or above on English A1 or A2 Exam
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UCLES Cambridge Exams

Undergraduate	FCE or CAE (minimum score of C)
Graduate	CAE or CPE (minimum score of C)

ELS Language Centers

Undergraduate	successful completion of Level 112
Graduate	successful completion of Level 112

Undergraduate students who submit standardized scores that do not meet these minimum requirements may be considered for provisional admission. In this circumstance, the university reserves the right to:

- 1) require the completion and submission of a Northwood University English Placement Test prior to arrival in the U.S.;

AND

- 2) grant provisional admission but require the student to successfully complete mandatory Intensive English Program.

These conditions shall be communicated in writing to the applicant.

The university requires the submission of standardized exam scores unless the requirement has been waived as noted above. The standardized exam is by far the best evidence of language proficiency in terms of application materials. However, undergraduate students who do not submit a standardized exam score may also be considered for admission provided they:

1. Present scores from institutional tests regarding proficiency in English. Such scores must be submitted on original institutional letterhead and must include a written explanation of the exam format and scoring/evaluation

procedure and a quantitative comparison of the score to that of a standardized exam score such as the Cambridge, TOEFL, IELTS or STEP.

In the absence of standardized exam scores, the university reserves the right to deny admission on that basis alone.

Graduate student applicants to the DeVos Graduate School **must** submit standardized exam scores. Applications cannot be considered without the submission of an official TOEFL, IELTS or STEP score report. However, if an applicant's undergraduate coursework was delivered **entirely** in English, standardized exam scores may be waived provided the applicant provides official institutional documentation of delivery in English and/or agrees to pre-admission oral interview. DeVos Graduate School will reserve the right to request mandatory Intensive English Program prior to their academic coursework based on the oral interview.

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