



Pathways to evidence English language proficiency

Practitioners wanting to apply for skilled migration in the category of ANZSCO 252411 and obtain an assessment for migration must show evidence of English language proficiency.

If the practitioner has qualifications from one of the recognised countries, they can follow one of the education pathways. If not, they will need to follow the test pathway.

Recognised countries

Antigua and Barbuda	Anguilla	Australia
The Bahamas	Barbados	Belize
Bermuda	British Indian Ocean Territory	Canada
Cayman Islands	Dominica	Falkland Islands
Gibraltar	Grenada	Guernsey
Guyana	The Isle of Man	Jamaica
Jersey	Malta	New Zealand
Republic of Ireland	Saint Helena	Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
St Kitts and Nevis	St Lucia	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago	The United Kingdom	The United States of America
US Virgin Islands		

Education pathways

A. The combined education pathway

To satisfy this pathway, the practitioner must have a combination of secondary education and tertiary qualifications, where they have carried out and successfully completed:

- i. At least two years of secondary education which was taught and assessed solely in English, in a recognised country, and
- ii. Qualification/s for occupational therapy, which were taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country.

Evidence required:

In addition to the occupational therapy qualification, practitioners will need to provide two of the following:

- Records of their secondary education from their secondary school.
- A letter from their secondary school stating that at least two years of their secondary school education was taught and assessed solely in English.
- Results from their secondary school education such as a General Certificate of Education.
- The syllabus of their secondary school education.

B. The school education pathway

To satisfy this pathway, English is the practitioner's main language and the practitioner has successfully completed:

- i. At least 10 years of primary and secondary school education which was taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country, and
- ii. Qualification(s) for occupational therapy, which were taught and assessed in any country solely in English.

Evidence required:

In addition to the occupational therapy qualification, applicants will need to provide two of the following:

- The records of their primary and secondary education
- A letter from the primary and secondary schools stating that at least ten years of their primary and secondary education was taught and assessed solely in English.
- Results from their primary and secondary school education.
- The syllabus of their primary and secondary school education.

C. The advanced education pathway

To satisfy this pathway, the practitioner has successfully completed at least six years in total of (full-time equivalent) education, all taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country which includes:

- i. Qualification/s for occupational therapy, and
- ii. Advanced education (tertiary) at a degree level (AQF level 7 or higher) which requires the practitioner to read, write, listen to and speak English.
 - A maximum of two years' break while obtaining the qualifications will be accepted.
 - The last period of education must have been completed no more than two years before applying for registration.

Evidence required:

In addition to the occupational therapy qualification/s, practitioners will need to provide the following:

- The testamur or letter of completion associated with their tertiary education.
- The full academic transcript associated with their tertiary education.

Test pathway

To satisfy the test pathway, the practitioner must achieve the required minimum scores in one of the following English language tests and meet the requirements for test results.

In April 2026, National Boards approved changes to the minimum scores required for registration purposes to reflect the most recent score concordance research published by test providers. English tests taken after 23 April 2026 will need to meet new minimum required scores.

The transition arrangements are outlined below.

English tests taken	Test dates	Score requirements
If you took one test	Test taken on or before 22 April 2026	You must meet the old minimum scores in Table 1
	Test taken on or after 23 April 2026	You must meet the new minimum scores in Table 2
If you took two tests	Both tests taken on or before 22 April 2026	You must meet the old minimum scores in Table 3
	Both tests taken on or after 23 April 2026.	You must meet the new minimum scores in Table 4
	First test taken on or before 22 April 2026,	Your first test must meet the old minimum scores in Table 3
	Second test taken on or after 23 April 2026	Your second test must meet the new minimum scores in Table 4.

Table 1

Minimum test scores for tests taken on or before 22 April 2026.

<p>1. Cambridge (C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency) (Paper and computer at test centre only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum overall score of 185. • Minimum score of 185 for each of the three components: listening, reading, speaking. • Minimum score of 176 for writing.
<p>2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Academic) (Academic paper and computer at test centre only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum overall score of 7. • Minimum score of 7 for each of the three components: listening, reading, speaking. • Minimum score of 6.5 for writing.
<p>3. Occupational English Test (OET) (On paper or computer based in testing centre)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum score of B for each of the three components: listening, reading, speaking. • Minimum score of C+ for writing.
<p>4. Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) (Computer at test centre only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum overall score of 66. • Minimum score of 66 for each of the three components: listening, reading, speaking. • Minimum score of 56 for writing.
<p>5. Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) (Computer at test centre only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum total overall score of 94. • Minimum score of 24 for listening, 24 for reading, 24 for writing, and 23 for speaking.

Table 2

Minimum test scores for tests taken on or after 23 April 2026.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cambridge (C1 Advanced) (Paper and computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum overall score of 178. Minimum score of 175 for listening, 179 for reading, 180 for writing, and 194 for speaking.2. Cambridge (C2 Proficiency) (Paper and computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum overall score of 185.• Minimum score of 185 for each of the three components: listening, reading, and speaking.• Minimum score of 176 for writing.3. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Academic) (Academic paper and computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum overall score of 7.• Minimum score of 7 for each of the three components: listening, reading, speaking.• Minimum score of 6.5 for writing.4. Occupational English Test (OET) (On paper or computer based in testing centre)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum score of 350 for each of the two components: listening and writing.• Minimum score of 360 for each of the two components: reading and speaking.5. Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) (Computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum overall score of 63.• Minimum score of 58 for listening, 59 for reading, 60 for writing, and 76 for speaking.6. Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) (Computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum overall score of 91.• Minimum scores of 22 for listening, 22 for reading, 23 for writing, and 24 for speaking.
--

A. Using results from two English test sittings

The OTC will only accept test results from:

- One test sitting, or
- A maximum of two test sittings in a 12-month period.
 - For the purposes of calculating time, if an applicant relies on test results from two sittings in a 12-month period, time begins to run from the date of the earlier sitting.
 - Results from different test providers cannot be combined.

When using the results from two English language test sittings, the practitioner must meet the following requirements for the test results:

Table 3

Minimum test scores for tests taken on or before 22 April 2026.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For the Cambridge test (C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency) (Paper and computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The practitioner is tested in all four components at each sitting.• Minimum score of 185 in each of the three components: listening, reading and speaking, and 176 for writing across the two sittings.• No score in any component of the tests for either test sitting is below 176.2. For the IELTS (Academic paper and computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The practitioner achieves a minimum overall score of 7 at each sitting.• Minimum score of 7 in each of the three components: listening, reading and speaking, and 6.5 for writing across the two sittings.• No score in any component of the tests for either test sitting is below 6.5.3. For the OET (On paper or computer based in testing centre)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The practitioner is tested in all four components at each sitting.• Minimum score of B in each of the three components: listening, reading and speaking, and C+ for writing across the two sittings.• No score in any component of the tests for either test sitting is below C+.4. For the PTE (Academic) (Computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The practitioner achieves a minimum overall score of 66 at each sitting.• Minimum score of 66 in each of the three components: listening, reading and speaking and 56 in writing across the two sittings.• No score in any of the components for either test sitting is below 56.5. For the TOEFL iBT (Computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The practitioner achieves a minimum overall score of 94 at each sitting.• Minimum score of 24 in each of the three components: listening, reading and writing, and 23 for speaking across the two sittings.• No score in any of the test sittings is below:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 20 for listening▪ 19 for reading▪ 24 for writing▪ 20 for speaking
--

Table 4

Minimum test scores for tests taken on or after 23 April 2026.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For the Cambridge test (C1 Advanced) (Paper and computer at test centre only)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The practitioner is tested in all four components at each sitting.• Minimum score of 175 for listening, 179 for reading, 180 for writing and 194 for speaking across the two sittings.• No score in any of the two test sittings is below:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 168 for listening▪ 168 for reading▪ 180 for writing▪ 187 for speaking
--

2. For the Cambridge test (C2 Proficiency) (Paper and computer at test centre only)
 - The practitioner is tested in all four components at each sitting.
 - Minimum score of 185 in each of the three components: listening, reading and speaking, and 176 for writing across the two sittings.
 - No score in any of the two test sittings is below 176.

3. For the IELTS (Academic paper and computer at test centre only)
 - The practitioner achieves a minimum overall score of 7 at each sitting.
 - Minimum score of 7 in each of the three components: listening, reading and speaking, and 6.5 for writing across the two sittings.
 - No score in any component of the tests for either test sitting is below 6.5.

4. For the OET (On paper or computer based in testing centre)
 - The practitioner is tested in all four components at each sitting.
 - Minimum score of 350 in each of the two components: listening and writing across the two sittings.
 - Minimum score of 360 in each of the two components: reading and speaking across the two sittings.
 - No score in any of the two test sittings is below:
 - 320 for listening
 - 340 for reading
 - 350 for writing
 - 350 for speaking

5. For the PTE (Academic) (Computer at test centre only)
 - The practitioner achieves a minimum overall score of 63 at each sitting.
 - Minimum score of 58 for listening, 59 for reading, 60 for writing, and 76 for speaking across the two sittings.
 - No score in any of the two test sittings is below:
 - 53 for listening
 - 54 for reading
 - 60 for writing
 - 66 for speaking

6. For the TOEFL iBT (Computer at test centre only)
 - The practitioner achieves a minimum overall score of 91 at each sitting.
 - Minimum score of 22 for listening, 22 for reading, 23 for writing and 24 for speaking across the two sittings.
 - No score in any of the test sittings is below:
 - 19 for listening
 - 19 for reading
 - 23 for writing
 - 22 for speaking

B. Requirements for English language tests

The following requirements apply to the English language test results.

Test results will be accepted if they were obtained:

1. within the two years before the date the practitioner lodges an application for registration, or

2. more than two years before the date the practitioner lodges an application for registration if, in the period since the test results were obtained, the practitioner lodges the application for registration within 12 months of finishing the last period of employment and:
 - a. has been continuously working as a registered health practitioner in the occupational therapy, profession (starting within 12 months of the test date) where English was the main language of practice in one of the recognised countries, or
 - b. has been working continuously in another relevant health, disability or aged-care related role where English was the main language of practice in one of the recognised countries and the role requires the practitioner to read, write, listen to and speak English in the working environment.

3. more than two years before the date the practitioner lodges an application for registration if, in the period since the test result was obtained, the practitioner:
 - a. has been continuously enrolled in a Board-approved program of study (which started within 12 months of the test date) and successfully completed subjects in each semester, with no break from study apart from the education provider's scheduled holidays, AND
 - b. lodges an application for registration within 12 months of completing the Board-approved program of study.

The Department of Home Affairs (DoHA) may require occupational therapists to meet separate English language proficiency standards even though the OTC has assessed the practitioner as meeting all its English language requirements.