

# Acceptable evidence of English language proficiency

## Student from a country with a visa decline rate of more than 20%:

- NCEA Level 3 with University Entrance
- Certificate of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA)
- Completed Bachelor Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Bachelor Honours Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree, but only if:
  - The qualification is obtained from a tertiary education provider from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United Kingdom or the United States; AND
  - The language of instruction was English.
- Internationally recognised English language proficiency test listed in [the Appendix](#) to Rule 18, but only if:
  - The student has achieved the required test scores for the level of the programme as specified in [the Table](#) in the Appendix; AND
  - The scores were achieved in a single test during the preceding two years. Combination of scores from multiple tests is not acceptable.

**Check the student visa decline rates that apply to your students on the [Immigration New Zealand website](#).**

### **Education organisations need to verify the English proficiency evidence**

Education organisations should verify any evidence of English language proficiency presented by international students or their agents. This includes verifying recognised English language tests or evidence of previous primary, secondary or tertiary study with English as the medium of instruction.

## Student from a country with a visa decline rate of 20% or less:

- NCEA Level 3 with University Entrance
- Cambridge Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA)
- Completed Bachelor Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Bachelor Honours Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree, but only if:
  - The qualification is obtained from a tertiary education provider from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United Kingdom or the United States; AND
  - The language of instruction was English.
- Internationally recognised English language proficiency test listed in [the Appendix](#) to Rule 18, but only if:
  - The student has achieved the required test scores for the level of the programme as specified in [the Table](#) in the Appendix; AND
  - The scores were achieved in a single test during the preceding two years. Combination of scores from multiple tests is not acceptable.
- An NZQA-approved English language proficiency test, administered by a Category 1 or 2 institution, where the student has achieved an outcome that is equivalent to or better than those listed in [the Table](#) of the Appendix.
- Completion of all primary education and at least three years of secondary education at schools with English as the language of instruction.
- Completion of five years of secondary education at schools with English as the language of instruction.