



Quick guide: English language requirement for Skilled Worker Visa

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Some UK immigration routes require an applicant to prove they have a sufficient knowledge of the English language. This document focuses on the requirements for the Skilled Worker Visa.

If you need to prove your knowledge of English, you will need to do so before you apply for your visa using one of the methods described in this document. You will then include your evidence when you submit your visa application.

Which immigration routes need proof of English?

- Skilled Worker
- Innovator
- Start-up
- Tier 2 (Minister of Religion)
- Student
- Dependent partner/parent
- Indefinite leave to remain
- British citizenship

Acceptable forms of proof

At least one of the following:

A. Be a national of one of the following ‘majority English speaking countries’:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| • Antigua and Barbuda | • Dominica | • St Kitts and Nevis |
| • Australia | • Grenada | • St Lucia |
| • The Bahamas | • Guyana | • St Vincent and the Grenadines |
| • Barbados | • Jamaica | • Trinidad and Tobago |
| • Belize | • Malta | • United States of America |
| • Canada | • New Zealand | |

B. Have met the requirement in a previous application

You must have proved that you met the English language requirement in a previous successful application for entry clearance or permission to stay. For Skilled Worker, you must have achieved at least [CEFR level B1](#) in reading, writing, speaking and understanding.

The English language test must have been passed to the required level in the 2 years before the date of application.

C. Have an appropriate qualification

There are two options:

1) You have a Bachelor's degree, Masters or PhD awarded in the UK.

- Proof required:
 - certificate from the awarding body; or
 - a transcript issued by the university or college that awarded the qualification; or
 - an official letter from the university or college that awarded the qualification containing information equivalent to a degree certificate.

2) You have a degree or degree-level qualification which was taught/researched in English, but not in the UK.

- Proof required:
 - a certificate* from the awarding body; or
 - a transcript* issued by the university or college that awarded the qualification; or
 - an official letter* from the university or college that awarded the qualification containing information equivalent to a degree certificate.

*If these are not in English or Welsh, they must be translated by a professional translator, who must include the following information:

- that the translation is a 'true and accurate translation of the original document'
- the date of the translation
- the full name and contact details of the translator or a representative of the translation company

- You must also have confirmation from [Ecctis](#) (formerly UK NARIC) that the qualification is comparable to a Bachelor's or Masters degree or PhD in the UK (English proficiency service)

Notes on Ecctis:

- Though Ecctis offers several services, you must use their Visas and Nationality Service to request the relevant confirmation. Other services are not valid for use with a visa application.
- If your PhD has not been taught/researched in English, but you have another qualification which was taught in English (eg a Bachelor's or Masters degree), you may submit that instead, provided that you meet the requirements of the service and the alternative qualification is sufficient to meet any requirements of the job.
- If you also need to rely on PhD points to meet the Skilled Worker Visa minimum salary requirements, you should select the PhD verification with English proficiency service.

D. Pass a secure English language test from an approved provider

If you are unable to meet the English language requirement through a qualification, you can take a secure English language test, which is specifically for immigration purposes, from an approved provider. You can find a list of tests and providers on the [UKVI website](#) as well as guidance on the process and what identification the applicant should provide. You will need to pass reading, writing, speaking and listening abilities to at least [CEFR 'B1' level](#) (the equivalent IELTS score is 4.0-5.0).

Skilled Worker Visa family members who are applying for dependent visas do not need to prove their level of English. Other routes, such as dependent partner/parent of a British citizen/settled worker, Indefinite Leave to Remain and British citizenship require only assessment of speaking and listening abilities.

Further guidance on English language tests is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

E. GCSE/A level English

You can prove your knowledge of English if you went to school in the United Kingdom and you have a GCSE, A level, Scottish National Qualification at level 4 or 5 or, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher, in English (language or literature), that was awarded:

- by an Ofqual (or SQA, Qualifications Wales or CCEA) regulated awarding body; and
- following education in a UK school which started before you were 18.

Students switching in the UK from Tier 4/Student Visa

Not all applicants who are switching from Tier 4 to Skilled Worker Visa will meet the English language requirement. To assess this, answer the following questions:

Question	Answer Yes	Answer No
1. Are you a national of a country which doesn't require proof of English (see option A above)	You do not have to prove your knowledge of English.	Please go to question 2 .
2. Have you completed the qualification you were studying under your Tier 4/Student visa?	You can rely on this as a taught/researched qualification which was awarded in the UK	Please go to question 3 .
3. Did you provide evidence of meeting the English language requirement when applying for your Tier 4/Student visa?	You can rely on having provided evidence with a previous visa application, as long as you achieved at least CEFR level B1 in reading, writing, speaking and understanding.	(if, for example, your Tier 4/Student visa sponsor confirmed your English and you did not have to provide evidence) You will need to evidence how you meet the English language requirement – see options above.

Exemptions

Some people are exempt from the English language requirement:

- those aged under 18, or 65 or over;
- those who have a disability (physical or mental condition) which prevents them from meeting the requirement.

Further information is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

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