

The English Language Requirement

Under the new Points Based Immigration System, migrants are required to prove that they have the ability to speak English at a competent level.

There are 3 ways in which a migrant can prove that they meet the English language requirement:

- Be a national of a majority English speaking country; or
- Pass an English language test; or
- Hold a degree that was taught in English and is equivalent to a UK Bachelors degree or above.

Migrants who are already in the UK under the old work permit system or have leave granted under Tier 1 (highly skilled migrant programme) or eventually have request extension under Tier 2 of the Points Based System, will not need to provide evidence and will automatically meet the English language requirements.

Nationals of majority English speaking countries

The list of countries included as majority English speaking are:

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

When applying for the Certificate of Sponsorship, Human Resources requires the nationals of these countries to provide a copy of their current valid original passport; a copy of their current national identity document; or a copy of an original letter from their home government or embassy. When applying for entry clearance or leave to remain in the UK the migrant will have to provide the original documents for the Home Office.

The English language test

The Border Agency has a list of English language tests that have been assessed as meeting their requirements:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/approvedenglish-testst2.pdf> When applying for the Certificate of Sponsorship, Human Resources requires migrants to provide a copy of the test result certificate. When applying for entry clearance or leave to remain in the UK the migrant will have to provide the original documents for the Home Office.

Degrees taught in English

Migrants may provide evidence that they hold a degree which is equivalent to a UK bachelors degree or higher and prove that it was taught or research in English to a particular level. The degree must also be recognised by UK NARIC. If a degree was taken in a majority English speaking country, it is assumed that it has been

taught in English. The recognised countries are as follows:

Antigua & Barbuda	Australia	The Bahamas
Barbados	Belize	Dominica
Grenada	Guyana	Ireland
Jamaica	New Zealand	St Kitts and Nevis
St Lucia	St Vincent & the Grenadines	Trinidad & Tobago
UK	United States of America	

Please note that Canada is NOT on the list

Migrants are advised to check that their degree will be acceptable to comply with the English language requirement by referring to the points based calculator on the Border Agency website.

When applying for the Certificate of Sponsorship, Human Resources requires migrants to provide a copy of their qualification certificate to prove it was taught in English or includes a letter from their University/Institute to confirm that the degree was taught in English. When applying for entry clearance or leave to remain in the UK the migrant will have to provide the original documents for the Home Office.