



LIN 25/090

Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visas) Instrument 2025

I, Matt Thistlethwaite, Assistant Minister for Immigration make the following instrument.

Dated 5 August 2025

Matt Thistlethwaite
Assistant Minister for Immigration

Contents

Part 1—Preliminary	1
1 Name	1
2 Commencement.....	1
3 Authority	1
4 Definitions	1
5 Schedules.....	2
Part 2—English language requirements for Subclass 500 (Student) visa	3
6 English language test requirements	3
7 English language test requirements do not apply	4
8 Specified evidence of English language proficiency—tests undertaken before commencement of this instrument.....	5
Part 3—Application provisions	7
9 Application of this instrument.....	7
Schedule 1—Required English language test scores	8
Schedule 2—Specified eligible pathway programs	9
Schedule 3—Required language test scores	19
Schedule 4—Repeals	20
<i>Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visa) Instrument (LIN 24/022) 2024</i>	<i>20</i>

Part 1—Preliminary

1 Name

This instrument is the *Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visas) Instrument 2025*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 7 August 2025.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subclause 500.213(3) of Schedule 2 to the *Migration Regulations 1994*.

4 Definitions

- Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in regulation 1.03 of the Regulations, including the following:
- (a) **Defence student** has the meaning given in regulation 1.04B;
 - (b) **ELICOS** means an English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students that is a registered course;
 - (c) **Foreign Affairs student**: see subregulation 1.04A(3).
 - (d) **IELTS test** means the International English Language Testing System test; and
 - (e) **Secondary exchange student** means an overseas secondary school student participating in a secondary school student exchange program approved by the State or Territory education authority that administers the program.

In this instrument:

approved English language test means an English language test that is specified in the requirement in paragraph 6(1)(a) of this instrument.

approved language test: see paragraph 8(1)(c) of this instrument.

Australian Qualifications Framework has the meaning given by section 1 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

Average band score means a test score calculated from the makeup of the scores received for each of the English test components.

eligible pathway program means a registered course that is specified in an item in the table in Schedule 2 for the purposes of paragraph 6(3)(d) of this instrument.

Note: A pathway program is a course for students who have not met the academic entry requirements for their intended Australian undergraduate university degree. A pathway program leads to a qualification recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework and provides academic credit and entry to second year undergraduate study.

Extended Foundation Program has the meaning given by the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Foundation Program Standards) Instrument 2021* as in force from time to time.

Note: A foundation program is a nationally recognised preparatory course for students who have not met the academic entry requirements for their intended Australian undergraduate university degree. Successful completion of the foundation program provides an academic entry pathway to first year undergraduate study. A foundation program can also be completed as an alternative to an Australian Year 12 certificate. The extended foundation program is of longer duration than the standard foundation program.

Overall band score means a test score calculated from the makeup of the scores received for each of the English test components.

principal course means, where the student is enrolled in multiple courses for the purposes of the Subclass 500 (Student) visa, the course with the highest Australian Qualifications Framework level.

Note: A student may enrol in multiple registered courses for the purposes of a Subclass 500 (Student) visa.

Regulations means the *Migration Regulations 1994*.

required minimum English language test score is the score specified, in relation to an approved English language test, in an item in the table in Schedule 1.

Standard Foundation Program has the meaning given by the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Foundation Program Standards) Instrument 2021* as in force from time to time.

Note: A foundation program is a nationally recognised preparatory course for students who have not met the academic entry requirements for their intended Australian undergraduate university degree. Successful completion of the foundation program provides an academic entry pathway to first year undergraduate study. A foundation program can also be completed as an alternative to an Australian Year 12 certificate.

test component: each of the following is a test component of an approved English language test:

- (a) listening;
- (b) reading;
- (c) speaking;
- (d) writing.

total band score means a test score calculated from the makeup of the scores received for each of the English test components.

5 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Part 2—English language requirements for Subclass 500 (Student) visa

6 English language test requirements

- (1) For the purposes of subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations, the following requirements are specified:
 - (a) the visa applicant must undertake one of the following **approved English language tests**:
 - (i) Cambridge Advanced Test (**CI Advance**);
 - (ii) Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program General (**CELPIP General**);
 - (iii) International English Language Test System (IELTS) Academic (**IELTS Academic**);
 - (iv) International English Language Test System (IELTS) General Training. (**IELTS General Training**);
 - (v) LANGUAGECERT Academic Test (**LANGUAGECERT Academic**);
 - (vi) Michigan English Test (**MET**);
 - (vii) Occupational English Test (**OET**);
 - (viii) Pearson Test of English Academic (**PTE Academic**);
 - (ix) Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-Based Test (**TOEFL iBT**); and
 - (b) the visa applicant must have undertaken the test within the following period:
 - (i) if evidence of the test is provided at the time the visa applicant makes an application for a Subclass 500 (Student) visa—the 2 year period immediately before the day on which the visa application is made; or
 - (ii) if evidence of the test is not provided at the time the visa application is made—the 2 year period immediately before the day on which a decision to grant or refuse to grant the visa is made; and
 - (iii) the visa applicant meets the requirements in subsection (2), (3) or (4).
- (2) The visa applicant achieved the required minimum English language test score specified in Column 2 of an item in the table in Schedule 1.
- (3) If the visa applicant is enrolled in:
 - (a) at least 10 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course and that is intended to commence after the Subclass 500 (Student) visa application was made; or
 - (b) a standard foundation program; or
 - (c) an extended foundation program; or
 - (d) a registered course that is specified in an item in the table in Schedule 2 (an **eligible pathway program**); and

Note: **Registered course** is defined in regulation 1.03 of the *Migration Regulations 1994*.

the applicant achieved the required minimum English language test score specified in Column 3 of an item in the table in Schedule 1, unless the test was a C1 Advanced.

- (4) If the visa applicant is enrolled in:
- (a) at least 20 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course; and
 - (b) that principal course is intended to commence after the Subclass 500 (Student) visa application was made;
- the visa applicant achieved the required minimum English language test score specified in Column 4 of an item in the table in Schedule 1, unless the test was a C1 Advanced.

7 English language test requirements do not apply

- (1) For the purpose of subclause 500.213(2) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations, subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations does not apply to the following classes of visa applicants:
- (a) a visa applicant who is a citizen of, and who holds a valid passport issued by, one or more of the following countries:
 - (i) Canada;
 - (ii) New Zealand;
 - (iii) the Republic of Ireland
 - (iv) the United Kingdom;
 - (v) the United States of America;
 - (b) a visa applicant who is enrolled in one of the following courses, where that is the only course of study that the visa applicant enrolled in for the purposes of their Subclass 500 (Student) visa application:
 - (i) a course of study that is registered to be delivered in a language other than English;
 - (ii) an ELICOS;
 - (iii) a registered school course;
 - (iv) a registered post-graduate research course;
 - (c) a visa applicant who is:
 - (i) a Foreign Affairs student; or
 - (ii) a Defence Student; or
 - (iii) a Secondary exchange student;
 - (d) a visa applicant who, in the 2 years before applying for a Subclass 500 (Student) visa, has successfully completed:
 - (i) the requirements for a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, in a course that was conducted in Australia and in English; or
 - (ii) a substantial component of a course leading to a qualification from the Australian Qualifications Framework at the Certificate IV level or higher that was conducted in Australia and in English, while the applicant was holding a student visa;

-
- (e) a visa applicant who has successfully completed a minimum of 5 years of study in English undertaken in one or more of the following countries;
 - (i) Australia;
 - (ii) Canada;
 - (iii) New Zealand;
 - (iv) South Africa;
 - (v) the Republic of Ireland;
 - (vi) the United Kingdom;
 - (vii) the United States of America.

8 Specified evidence of English language proficiency—tests undertaken before commencement of this instrument

- (1) For the purposes of subclause 500.213(3) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations, a person (the *visa applicant*) who:
 - (a) makes an application for a Subclass 500 (Student) visa on or after the day this instrument commences; and
 - (b) provides evidence that the person has undertaken, before the day on which this instrument commences, one of the language tests specified under subsection (2) within the following period:
 - (i) if evidence of the test is provided at the time the applicant makes an application for Subclass 500 (Student) visa—no more than 24 months immediately before the day of making the visa application; or
 - (ii) if evidence of the test is not provided at the time the visa application is made—no more than 24 months immediately before the day on which a decision to grant or to refuse to grant the visa is made, where the application was made by the person mentioned in paragraph (a); andmust meet the requirements in subsection (2), (3) or (4).
- (2) The visa applicant has achieved the required English language test score specified in Column 2 of an item in the table in Schedule 3 in a test covered by paragraph (1)(b).
- (3) If the visa applicant is enrolled in:
 - (a) at least 10 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course and that is intended to commence after the visa application mentioned in paragraph (a) was made; or
 - (b) a standard foundation program; or
 - (c) an extended foundation program; or
 - (d) a registered course that is specified Schedule 2 (an *eligible pathway program*); andthe applicant has achieved the required English language test score specified in Column 3 of an item in the table in Schedule 3 in a test covered by paragraph (1)(b).
- (4) If the applicant is enrolled in at least 20 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course and that is intended to commence after the Subclass 500

(Student) visa application was made, the applicant achieved the required English language test score specified in Column 4 of an item in the table in Schedule 3 in a test covered by paragraph (1)(b).

- (5) For the purposes of this section, the language tests and required language test scores in Schedule 3 are specified.

Part 3—Application provisions

9 Application of this instrument

This instrument applies in relation to a visa application that is made on or after the commencement of this instrument.

Schedule 1—Required English language test scores

English language test scores				
Item	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
	Test name	Minimum test score	Minimum test score: if principal course is accompanied by at least 10 weeks of an ELICOS; or if a standard foundation program; or if an extended foundation program; or if an eligible pathway program.	Minimum test score: if principal course is accompanied by at least 20 weeks of an ELICOS.
1.	C1 Advanced	Overall band score of 161.	Not accepted for purposes of subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations.	Not accepted for purposes of subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations.
2.	CELPiP General	Overall band score of 7.	Overall band score of 6.	Overall band score of 5.
3.	IELTS Academic	Average band score of 6.0.	Average band score of 5.5.	Average band score of 5.0.
4.	IELTS General Training	Average band score of 6.0.	Average band score of 5.5.	Average band score of 5.0.
5.	LANGUAGECERT Academic	Overall band score of 61.	Overall band score of 54.	Overall band score of 46.
6.	MET	Overall band score of 53.	Overall band score of 49.	Overall band score of 44.
7.	OET	Overall band score of 1210.	Overall band score of 1090.	Overall band score of 1020.
8.	PTE Academic	Overall band score of 47.	Overall band score of 39.	Overall band score of 31.
9.	TOEFL iBT	Total band score of 67.	Total band score of 51.	Total band score of 37.

Schedule 2—Specified eligible pathway programs

Registered courses specified for paragraph 5(3)(d) as eligible pathway programs				
Item	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
	CRICOS Course Code	Course Name	Institution Name	Destination University
1.	0100739	Diploma of Business Studies	Charles Darwin University	Charles Darwin University
2.	0100740	Diploma of Information Technology	Charles Darwin University	Charles Darwin University
3.	087938G	Diploma of Arts & Creative Industries	Colleges of Business and Technology (WA) Pty Ltd	Curtin University
4.	087939G	Diploma of Built Environment	Colleges of Business and Technology (WA) Pty Ltd	Curtin University
5.	087940C	Diploma of Commerce	Colleges of Business and Technology (WA) Pty Ltd	Curtin University
6.	087941B	Diploma of Engineering	Colleges of Business and Technology (WA) Pty Ltd	Curtin University
7.	087943M	Diploma of Information Technology	Colleges of Business and Technology (WA) Pty Ltd	Curtin University
8.	063386M	Diploma of Business	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
9.	022637C	Diploma of Commerce	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
10.	097893M	Diploma of Communication	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
11.	097892A	Diploma of Construction Management	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
12.	097895J	Diploma of Design	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
13.	063385A	Diploma of Engineering	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University

14.	097894K	Diploma of Film, Television and Animation	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
15.	059996G	Diploma of Health Sciences	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
16.	097891B	Diploma of Information Technology	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
17.	063387K	Diploma of Science	Melbourne Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Deakin University
18.	092032G	Diploma of Commerce	Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Edith Cowan University
19.	092033G	Diploma of Communications and Creative Industries	Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Edith Cowan University
20.	103337G	Diploma of Health Science	Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Edith Cowan University
21.	092034F	Diploma of Hotel Management	Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Edith Cowan University
22.	0100511	Diploma of Performing Arts (Music)	Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Edith Cowan University
23.	092035E	Diploma of Science (Computing/IT)	Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Edith Cowan University
24.	092036D	Diploma of Science (Engineering Studies)	Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Edith Cowan University
25.	092037C	Diploma of Science (Health Studies)	Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Edith Cowan University
26.	109402K	GC1 - Diploma of Information Technology (Higher Education)	Federation University Australia	Federation University Australia
27.	109279H	Diploma in Business	Flinders University Academy	Flinders University
28.	109280D	Diploma in Creative Industries	Flinders University Academy	Flinders University
29.	109281C	Diploma in Engineering	Flinders University Academy	Flinders University
30.	109282B	Diploma in Health	Flinders University Academy	Flinders University
31.	109283A	Diploma in Information Technology	Flinders University Academy	Flinders University
32.	088633F	Diploma of Business Studies	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd	Flinders University

33.	088634E	Diploma of Computing and Information Technology Studies	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd	Flinders University
34.	076172G	Diploma of Engineering	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd	Flinders University
35.	109014M	Diploma of Business	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
36.	082070G	Diploma of Criminology and Criminal Justice	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
37.	111385K	Diploma of Design	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
38.	070423G	Diploma of Engineering	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
39.	075188G	Diploma of Health Sciences	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
40.	026675J	Diploma of Information Technology	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
41.	109015K	Diploma of International Tourism and Hotel Management	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
42.	092487K	Diploma of Science	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
43.	092486M	Diploma of Social & Psychological Science	Queensland Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Griffith University
44.	086332B	Diploma of Business	Kaplan Business School	Kaplan Business School
45.	110279J	Diploma of Information Technology	Kaplan Business School	Kaplan Business School
46.	076108D	Diploma of Business	Navitas Bundoora Pty Ltd	La Trobe University
47.	113881M	Diploma of Business Analytics	Navitas Bundoora Pty Ltd	La Trobe University
48.	114033K	Diploma of Cybersecurity	Navitas Bundoora Pty Ltd	La Trobe University
49.	076109C	Diploma of Information Technology	Navitas Bundoora Pty Ltd	La Trobe University
50.	045084G	Diploma of Art and Design	Monash College	Monash University

51.	061625F	Diploma of Arts	Monash College	Monash University
52.	043633M	Diploma of Business	Monash College	Monash University
53.	043634K	Diploma of Engineering	Monash College	Monash University
54.	0100159	Diploma of Information Technology	Monash College	Monash University
55.	086068B	Diploma of Science	Monash College	Monash University
56.	113489H	Diploma of Business	Kaplan Higher Education trading as Murdoch College	Murdoch University
57.	113448J	Diploma of Information Technology	Murdoch College	Murdoch University
58.	116787G	Degree Transfer Program Standard – Engineering	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
59.	116791M	Degree Transfer Program Extended – Computer Science	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
60.	116797E	Degree Transfer Program Extended - Engineering	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
61.	116790A	Degree Transfer Program Extended - Business	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
62.	116798D	Degree Transfer Program Extended – Information Technology	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
63.	116786H	Degree Transfer Program Standard – Computer Science	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
64.	116785J	Degree Transfer Program Standard - Business	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
65.	116799C	Degree Transfer Program Extended - Science	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
66.	116789E	Degree Transfer Program Standard - Science	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
67.	116788F	Degree Transfer Program Standard – Information Technology	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
68.	116784K	Degree Transfer Program Accelerated - Business	Kaplan Higher Education	Adelaide University
69.	105379C	Diploma of Business	Phoenix Academy	Phoenix Academy
70.	116308E	Diploma in Architectural Studies	Queensland University of Technology	Queensland University of Technology

71.	081618F	Diploma in Business	QUT College	Queensland University of Technology
72.	081617G	Diploma in Creative Industries	QUT College	Queensland University of Technology
73.	086329G	Diploma in Engineering	QUT College	Queensland University of Technology
74.	094986G	Diploma in Health Science	QUT College	Queensland University of Technology
75.	081616G	Diploma in Information Technology	QUT College	Queensland University of Technology
76.	107881F	Diploma of Business	RMIT University	RMIT University
77.	098561A	Advanced Diploma of Engineering Technology (Civil Engineering Design)	RMIT University	RMIT University
78.	112017D	Advanced Diploma of Engineering (Mechanical)	RMIT University	RMIT University
79.	115097H	Diploma of Arts	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
80.	102590B	Diploma of Arts and Social Sciences	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
81.	079231K	Diploma of Business	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
82.	086030E	Diploma of Business	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
83.	114987D	Diploma of Conveyancing (Law and Practice)	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
84.	112794G	Diploma of Education	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
85.	111853J	Diploma of Engineering	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
86.	0101136	Diploma of Health	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
87.	0100351	Diploma of Hotel Management	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
88.	111198B	Diploma of Information Technology	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
89.	115098G	Diploma of Legal Studies	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
90.	111197C	Diploma of Regenerative Agriculture	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University

91.	086408J	Diploma of Science	Southern Cross University	Southern Cross University
92.	089744B	Diploma of Arts and Communication (UniLink)	Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne University of Technology
93.	085473G	Diploma of Business (UniLink)	Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne University of Technology
94.	085471K	Diploma of Design (UniLink)	Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne University of Technology
95.	085477D	Diploma of Engineering	Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne University of Technology
96.	088689A	Diploma of Health Science	Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne University of Technology
97.	085475F	Diploma of Information Technology	Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne University of Technology
98.	089746M	Diploma of Science	Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne University of Technology
99.	090282F	Diploma of Business	Torrens University	Torrens University
100.	088633F	Diploma of Business Studies (2yr program)	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd (Eynesbury College)	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
101.	088634E	Diploma of Computing and Information Technology Studies	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd (Eynesbury College)	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
102.	076172G	Diploma of Engineering	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd (Eynesbury College)	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
103.	086314D	Degree Transfer Program Accelerated - Business	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
104.	087624D	Degree Transfer Program Extended - Business	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
105.	087625C	Degree Transfer Program Extended - Computer Science	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
106.	087626B	Degree Transfer Program Extended - Engineering	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
107.	0101444	Degree Transfer Program Extended - Information Technology	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
108.	087627A	Degree Transfer Program Extended - Science	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University

109.	086313E	Degree Transfer Program Standard - Business	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
110.	086315C	Degree Transfer Program Standard - Computer Science	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
111.	086316B	Degree Transfer Program Standard - Engineering	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
112.	010144I	Degree Transfer Program Standard - Information Technology	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
113.	086317A	Degree Transfer Program Standard - Science	University of Adelaide College	University of Adelaide or Adelaide University
114.	070210K	Diploma of Business	University of Canberra College	University of Canberra
115.	062888G	Diploma of Communication	University of Canberra College	University of Canberra
116.	076136M	Diploma of Design	University of Canberra College	University of Canberra
117.	090071F	Diploma of Health	University of Canberra College	University of Canberra
118.	070213G	Diploma of Information Technology	University of Canberra College	University of Canberra
119.	074935G	Diploma of Science	University of Canberra College	University of Canberra
120.	113050F	Degree Transfer Architecture	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
121.	104604G	Degree Transfer Business	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
122.	104606E	Degree transfer Commerce	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
123.	113058J	Degree Transfer Construction Management	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
124.	104608C	Degree Transfer Engineering	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
125.	113051E	Degree Transfer Extended Architecture	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle

126.	104605F	Degree Transfer Extended Business	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
127.	104607D	Degree transfer Extended Commerce	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
128.	113052D	Degree Transfer Extended Construction Management	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
129.	104609B	Degree Transfer Extended Engineering	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
130.	104611H	Degree Transfer Extended IT	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
131.	114397D	Degree Transfer Extended Media and Communication	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
132.	104610J	Degree Transfer IT	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
133.	114391K	Degree Transfer Media and Communication	University of Newcastle College of International Education	University of Newcastle
134.	081516A	Diploma of Arts	South Australian Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	University of South Australia or Adelaide University
135.	081517M	Diploma of Business	South Australian Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	University of South Australia or Adelaide University
136.	088633F	Diploma of Business Studies	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd	University of South Australia or Adelaide University
137.	088634E	Diploma of Computing and Information Technology Studies	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd	University of South Australia or Adelaide University
138.	076172G	Diploma of Engineering	Educational Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd	University of South Australia or Adelaide University
139.	081519J	Diploma of Engineering	South Australian Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	University of South Australia or Adelaide University
140.	081520E	Diploma of Information Technology	South Australian Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	University of South Australia or Adelaide University

141.	0100203	International First Year Diploma - Business	UP Education	University of Tasmania
142.	0100205	International First Year Diploma - Science	UP Education	University of Tasmania
143.	112658D	Diploma of Animation Production (Extended)	UTS College Limited	University of Technology Sydney
144.	080142A	Diploma of Business (Extended)	UTS College Limited	University of Technology Sydney
145.	080143M	Diploma of Communication (Extended)	UTS College Limited	University of Technology Sydney
146.	080144K	Diploma of Design and Architecture (Extended)	UTS College Limited	University of Technology Sydney
147.	080145J	Diploma of Engineering (Extended)	UTS College Limited	University of Technology Sydney
148.	080146G	Diploma of Information Technology (Extended)	UTS College Limited	University of Technology Sydney
149.	080147G	Diploma of Science (Extended)	UTS College Limited	University of Technology Sydney
150.	107425H	Diploma in Commerce – 12 Months	UWA College	University of Western Australia
151.	111079J	Diploma in Computer and Data Science – 12 Months	UWA College	University of Western Australia
152.	112405C	Diploma in Engineering – 14 Months	UWA College	University of Western Australia
153.	112406B	Diploma in Engineering – 10 Months	UWA College	University of Western Australia
154.	057232B	Diploma of Business (3 Session)	UOW College Australia	University of Wollongong
155.	0101925	Diploma of Engineering (3 Session)	UOW College Australia	University of Wollongong
156.	057234M	Diploma of Information Technology (3 Session)	UOW College Australia	University of Wollongong
157.	0101923	Diploma of Science	UOW College Australia	University of Wollongong
158.	093391K	Diploma of Business (Enterprise)	Victoria University Sydney	Victoria University
159.	075552C	Diploma of Business (Enterprise)	Victoria University Melbourne	Victoria University
160.	077776D	Diploma of Information Technology	Victoria University	Victoria University
161.	096975F	Diploma in Arts	Western Sydney University	Western Sydney University
162.	108966D	Diploma in Arts	Western Sydney University International College	Western Sydney University

163.	096993D	Diploma in Arts Extended Pathway to Teaching Secondary	Western Sydney University	Western Sydney University
164.	096800G	Diploma in Business	Western Sydney University International College	Western Sydney University
165.	097252M	Diploma in Business - 2 Term Accelerated	Western Sydney University International College	Western Sydney University
166.	096999J	Diploma in Design Extended Graphic Design (Pathway to Teaching Secondary)	Western Sydney University	Western Sydney University

Schedule 3—Required language test scores

English language test scores				
Item	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
	Test name	Minimum test score	Minimum test score: if principal course is accompanied by at least 10 weeks of an ELICOS; or if a standard foundation program; or if an extended foundation program; or if an eligible pathway program.	Minimum test score: if principal course is accompanied by at least 20 weeks of an ELICOS.
1	Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) test/ Certificate in Advanced English	169	162	154
2	International English Language Testing system (IELTS Test)	Overall band score 6.0.	Overall band score of 5.5.	Overall band score of 5.0.
3	Occupational English Test (OET)	a score of at least B for each test component.	a score of at least B for each test component.	a score of at least B for each test component.
4	Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE)	50	42	36
5	Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT)	64	46	35

Schedule 4—Repeals

Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visa) Instrument (LIN 24/022) 2024

1 The whole of the instrument

Repeal the instrument.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Issued by authority of the Assistant Minister for Immigration

Migration Regulations 1994

Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visas) Instrument 2025

The instrument, departmental reference LIN 25/090, is made under subclause 500.213(3) of Schedule 2 to the *Migration Regulations 1994* (the Regulations).

The instrument repeals and replaces the *Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visa) Instrument (LIN 24/022) 2024* (LIN 24/022) in accordance with subsection 33(3) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* (the Acts Interpretation Act). That subsection provides that a power to make a legislative instrument includes a power to amend or repeal that instrument in the same manner, and subject to the same conditions, as the power to make the instrument.

The instrument commences on 7 August 2025. It is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003* (the Legislation Act).

Background

The *Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visa) Instrument (LIN 24/022) 2024* (LIN 24/022) commenced on 24 May 2025. That instrument was made under subclause 500.213(3) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations.

Subclause 500.213 of Schedule 2 to the Regulations provides that (see paragraphs 500.213(1) – (3) of Schedule 2):

- if required to do so by the Minister, in writing or by use of a computer program available online, at any time, the applicant gives to the Minister evidence that the applicant has a level of English language proficiency that meets the requirements specified in an instrument under paragraph 500.213(3)(a) of Schedule 2);
- the note under subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 provides that for arrangements for the use of a computer program, see section 495A of the *Migration Act 1958*;
- subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule to the Regulations does not apply to an applicant within a class of applicants specified in an instrument under paragraph 500.213(3)(b) of Schedule 2;
- the Minister may, by legislative instrument, specify the requirements for the purposes of subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 or a class of applicants to which subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 does not apply (see subclause 500.213(3)(a) - (b) of Schedule 2).

LIN 24/022 provided for the English language proficiency requirements that an applicant may be required to meet to satisfy the criterion for the grant of a Subclass 500 (Student) visa (the Subclass 500 visa), including the following:

- the English language tests that were approved for demonstrating English language proficiency for the purposes of the Subclass 500 visa;
- the required test scores for an applicant in an approved English test;
- the period of time in which the required test scores were required to be obtained; and
- applicants who were exempt from the requirement to undertake English language tests.

LIN 24/022 further provided that pathway programs specified in Schedule 2 to LIN 24/022 will meet the definition of an *eligible pathway program*. The effect being that applicants enrolled in an eligible pathway program would be able to meet the lower English language test score specified for the English language test in accordance with Schedule 1 of LIN 24/022.

Purpose

The *Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) visa) Instrument 2025* is made under subclause 500.213(3) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations.

The purpose of this instrument is to specify the English language proficiency requirements that an applicant may be required to meet to satisfy the criterion for the grant of a Subclass 500 visa. This includes the following:

- the English language tests that are approved for demonstrating English language proficiency for the purposes of the Subclass 500 visa;
- the required English language test scores for an applicant in an approved English language test (as defined in section 4 of LIN 25/090);
- the period of time in which the required English language test scores must be obtained; and
- applicants who are exempt from the requirement to undertake English language tests.

The intent of this instrument is to update the approved English language tests and the required test scores for Australian visas in accordance with the outcome of the Department's Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) process, which commenced in July 2022. Through that REOI process, this instrument also reflects a change of the English language test providers to give effect to new Deeds of Agreement (Deeds) between the Department and the new test providers.

Consultation

External consultation was undertaken throughout the REOI process by the Department with key departmental committees and industry bodies such as the Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC), Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), Law Council of Australia (LCA) and Migration Institute of Australia (MIA). English language test providers were consulted on, and confirmed accuracy of, the English language test names and scores set out in this instrument.

This consultation accords with the consultation requirements in section 17 of the Legislation Act.

Parliamentary scrutiny etc.

The instrument is exempt from disallowance under section 42 of the Legislation Act. This is because in accordance with paragraph 44(2)(b) of the Legislation Act and item 20(b) in regulation 10 of the *Legislation (Exemptions and Other Matters) Regulation 2015*, instruments made under Schedule 2 of the Regulations are prescribed as being exempt from disallowance. Given the instrument is exempt from disallowance, a statement of compatibility in accordance with section 9 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011* is not required.

The instrument was made by a delegate of the Minister under and in accordance with subclause 500.213(3) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations.

Details of the instrument

Part 1 – Preliminary

Section 1 – Name

This section provides that the name of the instrument is the *Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) visa) Instrument 2025* (the instrument).

Section 2 – Commencement

This section provides that the instrument commences on 7 August 2025.

Section 3 – Authority

This section provides that the instrument is made under subclause 500.213(3) of Schedule 2 to the *Migration Regulations 1994* (the Regulations).

Section 4 – Definitions

This section provides for the definitions in the instrument.

- ***approved English language test*** means an English language test that is specified in the requirement in paragraph 6(1)(a) of this instrument.
- ***approved language test*** means: see paragraph 8(1)(c) of this instrument.
- ***Australian Qualifications Framework*** has the meaning given by section 1 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.
- ***Average band score*** means a test score calculated from the makeup of the scores received for each of the English test components.
- ***eligible pathway program*** means a registered course that is specified in an item in the table in Schedule 2 of the instrument for paragraph 6(3)(d) of this instrument.

The note under the definition of ***eligible pathway program*** in section 4 of the instrument provides that a pathway program is a course for students who have not met the academic entry requirements for their intended Australian undergraduate university degree. A pathway program leads to a qualification recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework and provides academic credit and entry to second year undergraduate study.

- ***Extended Foundation Program*** has the meaning given by the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Foundation Program Standards) Instrument 2021* as in force from time to time.

The note under the definition of ***Extended Foundation Program*** in section 4 of the instrument provides that a foundation program is a nationally recognised preparatory course for students who have not met the academic entry requirements for their intended Australian undergraduate university degree. Successful completion of the foundation program provides an academic entry pathway to first year undergraduate study. A foundation program can also be completed as an alternative to an Australian Year 12 certificate. The extended foundation program is of longer duration than the standard foundation program.

- ***Overall band score*** means a test score calculated from the makeup of the scores received for each of the English test components.
- ***principal course*** means, where the student is enrolled in multiple courses for the purposes of the Subclass 500 visa, the course with the highest Australian Qualifications Framework level.

The note under the definition of **principal course** in section 4 of the instrument provides that a student may enrol in multiple registered courses for the purposes of a Subclass 500 visa.

- **Regulations** means the *Migration Regulations 1994*.
- **required minimum English language test score** is the score specified, in relation to an approved English language test, in an item in the table in Schedule 1 to this instrument.
- **required language test score** means: see paragraph 8(1)(d) of this instrument.
- **Standard Foundation Program** has the meaning given by the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Foundation Program Standards) Instrument 2021* as in force from time to time.

The note under the definition of **Standard Foundation Program** in section 4 of the instrument provides that a foundation program is a nationally recognised preparatory course for students who have not met the academic entry requirements for their intended Australian undergraduate university degree. Successful completion of the foundation program provides an academic entry pathway to first year undergraduate study. A foundation program can also be completed as an alternative to an Australian Year 12 certificate.

- **test component**: each of the following is a test component of an approved English language test (see paragraphs (a) – (d) of that definition of section 4 of the instrument):
 - listening;
 - reading;
 - speaking;
 - writing.

The note under the definition of **test component** in section 4 of the instrument provides that a number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in regulation 1.03 of the Regulations, including the following (see paragraphs (a) – (e) of that note of section 4 of the instrument):

- **Defence student** has the meaning given in regulation 1.04B;
 - **ELICOS** means an English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students that is a registered course;
 - **Foreign Affairs student**: see subregulation 1.04A(3).
 - **IELTS test** means the International English Language Testing System test; and
 - **Secondary exchange student** means an overseas secondary school student participating in a secondary school student exchange program approved by the State or Territory education authority that administers the program.
- **Total band score** means a test score calculated from the makeup of the scores received for each of the English test components.

Section 5 – Schedules

This Section provides that each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Part 2 – English language requirements for Subclass 500 (Student) visa

Section 6 – English language test requirements

Section 6(1) of Part 2 of this instrument provides that the purposes of subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations, the following requirements are specified (see paragraphs 6(1)(a) – (b) of the instrument):

- the applicant must undertake one of the following approved English language tests (see paragraphs 6(1)(a)(i) – (ix) of the instrument):
 - Cambridge Advanced Test (C1 Advance);
 - Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program General (CELPIP General);
 - International English Language Test System (IELTS) Academic (IELTS Academic);
 - International English Language Test System (IELTS) General Training. (IELTS General Training);
 - LANGUAGECERT Academic Test (LANGUAGECERT Academic);
 - Michigan English Test (MET);
 - Occupational English Test (OET);
 - Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic);
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT); and
- the applicant must have undertaken the test within the following period (see paragraphs 6(1)(b)(i) – (iii) of the instrument):
 - if evidence of the test is provided at the time the applicant makes an application for a Subclass 500 (Student) visa—the 2 year period immediately before the day on which the visa application is made; or
 - if evidence of the test is not provided at the time the visa application is made—the 2 year period immediately before the day on which a decision to grant or refuse to grant the visa is made; and
 - the applicant meets the requirement in subsection 6(2), (3), or (4) of the instrument.

Subsection 6(2) of Part 2 of the instrument provides that the applicant achieved the required minimum English language test score specified in Column 2 of an item in the table in Schedule 1 of the instrument.

- Subsection 6(3) of Part 3 of the instrument provides for that if the applicant is enrolled in: (see paragraphs 6(3)(a) – (d) of the instrument):
 - at least 10 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course and that is intended to commence after the Subclass 500 visa application was made; or
 - a standard foundation program; or
 - an extended foundation program; or
 - a registered course that is specified in an item in the table in Schedule 2 of the instrument (an *eligible pathway program*); and

the applicant achieved the required minimum English language test score specified in Column 3 of an item in the table in Schedule 1 to the instrument, unless the test was a C1 Advanced.

The note under paragraph 6(3)(d) of the instrument provides that a **Registered course** is defined in regulation 1.03 of the Regulations.

Subsection 6(4) of Part 2 of the instrument provides that if the applicant is enrolled in at least 20 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course; and (see paragraph 6(4)(a) of the instrument)

- that principal course is intended to commence after the Subclass 500 visa application was made, the applicant achieved the required minimum English language test score specified in Column 4 of an item in the table in Schedule 1 to the instrument, unless the test was a C1 Advanced.

The effect of section 6 of this instrument is that a Subclass 500 visa applicant will meet the requirements of subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations, where that applicant can satisfy the requirements of paragraphs 6(1)(a), 6(1)(b)(i) or (ii) and 6(1)(b)(iii) of this instrument.

Section 7 – English language test requirements do not apply

Subsection 7(1) of Part 2 of the instrument provides that the purpose of subclause 500.213(2) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations, subclause 500.213(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations does not apply to the following classes of applicants (see paragraphs 7(1)(a) – (e) of the instrument):

- a visa applicant who is a citizen of, and who holds a valid passport issued by, one or more of the following countries (see paragraphs 7(1)(a)(i) – (v) of the instrument):
 - Canada;
 - New Zealand;
 - the Republic of Ireland
 - the United Kingdom;
 - the United States of America;
- a visa applicant who is enrolled in one of the following courses, where that course is the only course of study enrolled in for the purposes of the Subclass 500 visa application (see paragraphs 7(1)(b)(i) – (iv) of the instrument):
 - a course of study that is registered to be delivered in a language other than English;
 - an ELICOS;
 - a registered school course;
 - a registered post-graduate research course;
- a visa applicant who is (see paragraphs 7(1)(c)(i) – (iii) of the instrument):
 - a Foreign Affairs student; or
 - a Defence Student; or
 - a Secondary exchange student;
- a visa applicant, who, in the 2 years before applying for a Subclass 500 visa, has successfully completed (see paragraphs 7(1)(d)(i) – (ii) of the instrument):
 - the requirements for a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, in a course that was conducted in Australia and in English; or
 - a substantial component of a course leading to a qualification from the Australian Qualifications Framework at the Certificate IV level or higher that was conducted in Australia and in English, while the applicant was holding a student visa;
- a visa applicant who has successfully completed a minimum of 5 years of study in English undertaken in one or more of the following countries (see paragraphs 7(1)(e)(i) – (vii) of the instrument):
 - Australia;
 - Canada;
 - New Zealand;
 - South Africa;
 - the Republic of Ireland;
 - the United Kingdom;
 - the United States of America.

The effect of section 7 of this instrument is that a Subclass 500 visa applicant is not required to satisfy the requirements of subclause 500.231(1) of Schedule 2 of the Regulations where that applicant falls within one of the classes of applicants mentioned in paragraphs 7(1)(a) to (e) of the instrument in accordance with subclause 500.231(2) of Schedule 2.

Section 8 – Specified evidence of English language proficiency —tests undertaken before commencement of this instrument

Subsection 8 of Part 2 of this instrument provides that for the purposes of subclause 500.213(3) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations, the requirements are specified in subsection 8(2) of the instrument and recognised as evidence of the English language proficiency of a person, for a person who (see paragraphs 8(1)(a) to (h) of the instrument);

- makes a valid application for a Subclass 500 visa on or after the day this instrument commences; and
- the visa application made by the visa applicant was accompanied by evidence of, that visa applicant:
- has undertaken, one of the **approved language tests**; specified in subsection 8(2) of the instrument, within the following period (see paragraphs 8(1)(c)(i) – (iii) of this instrument):
 - if evidence of test is provided at the time the applicant makes an application for Subclass 500 (Student) visa, no more than 24 months immediately before the day of making the visa application; or
 - if evidence of the test is not provided at the time the visa application is made, no more than 24 months immediate before the day on which a decision to grant or to refuse to grant the visa is made, where the application was made by the person mentioned in paragraph 8(1) (a) of the instrument; and
 - before the day on which this instrument commences; and
- has achieved the **required language test score** for the test mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(c) of the instrument, specified in subsection 8(2) of the instrument; or
- the person mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a) is enrolled in (see paragraphs 8(1)(e)(i) – (iv) of this instrument):
 - at least 10 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course and that is intended to commence after the visa application mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a) was made; or
 - a standard foundation program; or
 - an extended foundation program; or
 - a registered course that is specified Schedule 2; (an **eligible pathway program**); and
- has achieved the required language test score for the test mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(c) of the instrument), specified in subsection 8(2) of the instrument; or
- the person mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a) is enrolled in at least 20 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course and that is intended to commence after the visa application mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a) of the instrument was made; and
- has achieved the required language test score for the test mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(c), specified in subsection 8(2) of the instrument.

The two notes under paragraph 8(1)(h) of the instrument provide for the following:

- see the definitions of **Extended Foundation Program**, **principal course**, **Standard Foundation Program** in section 4.
- **ELICOS** and **registered course** are defined in regulation 1.03 of the *Migration Regulation 1994*.

Subsection 8(2) of Part 2 of the instrument provides that for the purposes of paragraph 8(1)(c), (d), (e) to (f) and (g) to (h) of the instrument, the following required English language test scores are specified (see paragraph 8(2)(a) of the instrument) in Schedule 3 to the instrument.

The effect of section 8 of Part 2 of the instrument is that a person will be determined to possess the necessary English language proficiency, where:

- the applicant makes a valid application for a Subclass 500 visa on or after 7 August 2025; and
- the visa application made by that applicant is accompanied by evidence of that visa applicant:
- has undertaken, one of the specified tests in subsection 8(2) of the instrument, within one of the following periods:
 - during the period 6 August 2025 and 7 August 2027 (inclusive), immediately before that visa application was made; or
 - during the period 6 August 2025 and 7 August 2027 (inclusive), immediately before the decision to grant that visa or to refuse that visa application is made; and
 - before the day on which this instrument commences; and
- that applicant achieved the necessary specified test score in subsection 8(2) of the instrument; or
- that applicant is enrolled in:
 - at least 10 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course and that is intended to commence after the visa application was made; or
 - a standard foundation program; or
 - an extended foundation program; or
 - a registered course that is specified Schedule 2 to the instrument (an eligible pathway program); and
- that applicant achieved the necessary specified test score in subsection 8(2) of the instrument; and
- that applicant is enrolled in at least 20 weeks of an ELICOS that accompanies a principal course and that is intended to commence after the visa application was made; and
- that applicant achieved the necessary specified test score in subsection 8(2) of the instrument.

Part 3 – Application provisions

Section 9 – Application of the instrument

This section of the instrument provides that the instrument applies in relation to an application for a visa that is made on or after the commencement of the instrument.

The effect of section 9 of Part 3 of the instrument is that a Subclass 500 visa applicant will need to satisfy the requirements of section 6 of the instrument for the purposes of satisfying subclause 500.231(1) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations, when an approved English language test (as defined in section 4 of this instrument) is undertaken and the relevant visa application is made on or after 7 August 2025. Unless the applicant is in the class of applicants as detailed in section 7 of the instrument (for the purposes of subclause 500.213(2) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations).

Schedule 1 – Required English language test scores

Schedule 1 to the instrument provides for the required English language test scores in a table under this Schedule for the purposes of paragraph 6(1)(b)(iii) of the instrument.

Schedule 2 – Specified eligible pathway programs

Schedule 2 to the instrument provides for registered courses specified for paragraph 6(3)(d) of the instrument as an eligible pathway program in a table under this Schedule.

Schedule 3 – Required language test scores

Schedule 3 to the instrument provides for the required language test scores in a table under this Schedule for the purposes of subsection 8(2) of the instrument.

Schedule 4 – Repeals

Item 1 of Schedule 4 to the instrument repeals the *Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visa) Instrument (LIN 24/022) 2024* in its entirety.