

2026



Entry requirements for AUT Certificate in Foundation Studies

POWERED BY UP EDUCATION

Country specific	Qualification	Foundation Connect	Standard (12 months)	Fast-track (8-9 months)	Accelerated (6 months)
Australia	Year 11		50%	50%	55% or completion of Year 12 in Australia
Bangladesh	HSC	Year 11: 60%	50%/3.0	55%/3.0	60%/3.5
Bhutan	Year 11 Year 12		50%	55%	60%
Brazil	Certificate de Ensino Medio		Satisfactory completion - GPA 5.0	GPA 5.5	GPA 6
Cambodia	Diploma of Upper Secondary Education	Upper Secondary Schools - Year 2: 80-89%	D	D	C
Canada	Year 11	Upper Secondary Schools - Year 2: 80-89%	55%	60%	65%
Chile	Year 11	Completion of Colleges & Lyceums - Year 1 (Year 11) with good grades	5	6	
China	Chilean Higher Secondary Schooling (Licencia de Educacion Media)				4
	Senior High School and Vocational - Year 2		60%	65%	70%
	Senior High School and Vocational - Year 3			60%	65%
Colombia	Bachillerator		6	6.5	7
Ecuador	Bachillerator	Secondary Schools - Year 2: 7.5	6	7	7.5
Ethiopia	Ethiopian General Secondary Education Certificate Examination (ECSECE)		Grade D	Grade C	Grade B
Fiji	Year 12	Year 11: Top 3 plus English aggregate 180	Top 4 aggregate 160	Top 4 aggregate 180	Top 4 aggregate 200
Hong Kong	Form 5		3 passes	3 passes	4 passes
	HKDSE		2,11	2,11	2,21
India	Class 10 State Board Examinations		80%	80%	80% plus the required results from the FPP Admission Exams
	Year 12 HSC				50%
Indonesia	SMA2		6.0 (60%) in 4 academic subjects	6.5 (65%) in 4 academic subjects	7.0 (70%) in 4 academic subjects
Iran	Year 11		14/20	14/20	16/20
Japan	Kotogakko/ Upper secondary School Certificate - Year 2		Completion of year 2	Grade 2 in academic subjects	Grade 3 average in academic subjects
	Upper secondary school equivalency Exam (The Ministry of Education)		3Cs	1Bs and 2Cs	3Bs
Kazakhstan	Secondary school leaving certificate	Year 10: GPA 4/5	Year 11 GPA 3/5	Year 11 GPA 3/5	Year 11 GPA 4/5
Kenya	KCSE	Completion of Year 11 with good grades	4Cs	4C+s	4B-s
Kuwait	Shahadat Al-Thanawaya Al-Aama/General Secondary School Certificate	Secondary Education - Year 2: 80%	60%	64%	69% or higher
Laos	Completion of Baccalaureate	Completion of Upper secondary Schools - Year 2: 7/10	5.5 or 55%	6.0 or 60%	6.5 or 65%
Macau	Form 5/ Senior Middle 2		55%	60%	65%
	Form 6/ Senior Middle 3			55%	60%
Malaysia	SPM - Forecast/prelim/actual		Ds in academic subjects	Cs in academic subjects	C* in academic subjects
	UEC		max of 40	max of 35	max of 30
Mexico	Bachillerato	Year 11: 6.0/60%	6/60%	6.5/65%	7.0/70%
Mongolia	Certificate of Complete Secondary Education	Certificate of Complete Secondary Education: 4xDs	1Cs and 3 Ds	2 Cs and 2 Ds	4 Cs
Myanmar	BEHS/Matriculation Exam		55%	60%	65%
Nepal	Higher Secondary Education Certificate	Completion of Year 11 with good grades	55%	60%	65%
New Zealand **	NCEA		30 credits at NCEA from mixed of level 2 or above. With no fewer than 6 credits in each of subjects (combined credits from related subjects)	30 credits at NCEA from mixed of level 2 or above. With no fewer than 6 credits in each of subjects (combined credits from related subjects)	34 credits at NCEA from mixed of level 2 or above. With no fewer than 6 credits in each of subjects (combined credits from related subjects)
			ie., math combined credits from related subjects would be stastics, calculus and math etc	ie., math combined credits from related subjects would be stastics, calculus and math etc	ie., math combined credits from related subjects would be stastics, calculus and math etc
Nigeria	SSCE Exams (West African Education Council WAEC)	Completion of Upper Secondary School - Year 2 with good grades	D	D	C
Oman	General Education Diploma		65%	70%	75%
Pakistan	Intermediate/ Higher Secondary School Certificate		55%	60%	65%
Peru	Certificate of Completed General Secondary Education		13	14	15
Philippines	High School Diploma Year 11	Year 11 (Semester 1): 80%	75	77	80
Russia	Certificate of Secondary Education (Attestat)		Grade 3 in 3 relevant subjects	Grade 3 in 4 relevant subjects	Grade 3 in 5 relevant subjects
Saudi Arabia	Tawjihyah/General Secondary Education Certificate	Secondary Education - Year 2: 80%	65%	70%	75%

Country specific	Qualification	Foundation Connect	Standard (12 months)	Fast-track (8-9 months)	Accelerated (6 months)
Singapore	Singapore O level (or forecast)		Aggregate of 30 or less across 5 academic subjects; or 24 points across 4 academic subjects	Aggregate of 28 or less C5/C6 across 5 academic subjects; or 22 points across 4 academic subjects	Aggregate of 22 or less B4/C5 across 5 academic subjects; or 16 points across 4 academic subjects
South Africa	Year 11		60%	70%	75%
South Korea	High school certificate Year 2 Korean High school graduation equivalency exam (GED)		55% or Rank 8	60% or rank 7	65% or Rank 7
Sri Lanka	O Level		2Ds and 2 Cs	4Cs	2 Bs and 2 Cs
Taiwan	Senior Year 2		60%	65%	70%
Thailand	Matayom 5		2.2	2.25	2.5
Turkey	Devlet Lise Diplomas/State High School Diploma	Upper Secondary - Year 3: 70/100	Grade 2 in 2 academic subjects	Grade 2 in 2 academic subjects	Grade 3 in 2 academic subjects
Venezuela	Bachiller	Liceos Bolivarianos/ Colegios - Year 4: 12 in 4 relevant subjects	12 in 4 relevant subjects	13 in 4 relevant subjects	15 in 4 relevant subjects
Vietnam	Year 11	Year 10: 8.0	5.5	6.0	6.5
UAE	Secondary School Certificate Year 12	General Secondary Schools - Year 2: 80%	65%	70%	75% or higher
USA	Completion of Year 11	D/60-69%/ GPA:1.0	D/60-69%/ GPA:1.0	D/60-69%/ GPA:1.0	C/70-79%/ GPA: 2.0
	Year 12/GED				D/60-69%/ GPA:1.0/ CED Pass
Uzbekistan	Year 11 Year 12		GPA 3/5	GPA 4/5	GPA 3/5
Zambia	School Certificate		Grade 7-8	Grade 5-6	Grade of 4

International qualifications

	Qualification	Foundation Connect	Standard (12 months)	Fast-track (8-9 months)	Accelerated (6 months)
Global Assessment Certificate - GAC	Level 2		2.6	2.6	3
International Baccalaureate - IB **	First year of IB diploma		Grade 4 in 2 relevant subjects	Grade 4 in 3 relevant subjects	Grade 4 in 4 relevant subjects
Cambridge International Examinations O level/IGCSE/GCSE ** (forecast / prelim can also be accepted)			1 C grades and 3 D grades in four CIE official subjects.	2C and 2Ds in four CIE official subjects.	1B and 3Cs in four CIE official subjects
Cambridge International Examinations A level **			40 UCAS points. Local language in AS Level is not accepted.	40 UCAS points. Local language in AS Level is not accepted.	48 UCAS points. Local language in AS Level is not accepted.

UP Education

	Qualification	Foundation Connect	Standard (12 months)	Fast-track (8-9 months)	Accelerated (6 months)
Foundation Preparation Programme			GPA - 3 academic subjects >50% Pass TSS	GPA - 3 academic subjects >50% Pass TSS	GPA - 3 academic subjects >65% Pass TSS

Applications are also assessed on the basis of:

- Current and previous academic reports
- Comments on academic reports
- Attendance rates
- Medical issues

**Teachers' comments and attendance rate are considered to determine entry. An interview is applicable if studied in New Zealand.

This is a guide to determine entrance only – some flexibility will apply.

UP Education reserves the right to change the requirements at any time without prior notice.

2026



English requirements for AUT Certificate in Foundation Studies

English language requirements

Programme option	IELTS
Accelerated	6.0 and no band less than 5.0
Fast-track	5.5 and no band less than 5.0
Standard	5.0 and no band less than 4.5
Foundation Connect	4.5 and no band less than 4.0
Pathways Link Programme	4.5 and no band less than 4.0

Accepted equivalents to IELTS

	IELTS 4.5	IELTS 5	IELTS 5.5	IELTS 6
TOEFL Internet based (iBT)**	30 (Writing 12)	35 (Writing 14)	46 (Writing 14)	60 (Writing 18)
University of Cambridge English Examinations	B2 First or B2 First for Schools with a score of 150. No less than 150 in each skill	B2 First or B2 First for Schools with a score of 154. No less than 154 in each skill	B2 First or B2 First for schools with a score of 162. No less than 154 in each skill	B2 First, or B2 First for schools, or C1 Advanced, or C2 Proficiency with a score of 169. No less than 162 in each skill
NZCEL NZ Certificate of English Language	Level 2 with an endorsement of General, Workplace or Academic	Level 3 with an endorsement of General, Workplace or Academic	Level 4 with an Academic endorsement	Level 4 with an Academic endorsement
Pearson Test - Academic	PToE (Academic) 29-35	PToE (Academic) 36-41	PToE (Academic) 42-49	PToE (Academic) 50-57
City and Guilds IESOL		B1 achiever - 43	B2 Communicator - 42	C1 Communicator - 66
Language Certificate		B1 achiever - Pass	B2 Communicator - High Pass	C1 Communicator - Pass
Duolingo English Test	75 (no interview required) - Only accepted for Foundation Connect and Pathways Link Programme	85 and pass spoken interview that conducted by UP Education team	95 and pass spoken interview that conducted by UP Education team	105 and pass spoken interview that conducted by UP Education team
Evidence also accepted				
Cambridge Advanced (CAE)		Grade B2	Grade B2	Grade C
Cambridge English Scale Scores		154	162	169
Cambridge English: First	Grade B1	Grade C		
GCE O-Level, IGCSE, GCSE or Oxford GCSE**	Grade E	Grade D	Grade C	Grade B
GCE A-Level and AS Level**	Grade E	Grade E	Grade E	Grade E
Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level (H2 level)*				Grade E
Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level (H1 level)*				Grade C
Canadian High School final year report	Grade 11 (B)	Grade 12 (C)	Grade 12 (C+)	Grade 12 (B)
USA High School- final year report	Grade 11 - 70%	Grade 11 - 80%	Grade 11 - 90%	Grade 12 - 80 %
IB (English Language A1 or 2 Higher Level)		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
IB (English Language A1 or 2 Standard Level)		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
IB (English Language B Higher Level)		Grade 4	Grade 4	Grade 5
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority HKEAA	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 3	Grade 4
The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)	B1	B1	B2	B2
University of Auckland English Language Academy	EAP Introduction	EAP Introduction	EAP 1	EAP 2 or EAP 3 (C+ grade)
Victoria University English Proficiency Programme	Minimum of one rating of 4 and three ratings of 3	Minimum of two ratings of 4 and two ratings of 3	Minimum of two ratings of 4 and two ratings of 3	Minimum of three ratings of 4 and one rating of 3
Languages International			Level 1	Level 2
NCEA **			10 Literacy Credits at L2 or higher (5 reading and 5 writing credits)	14 Literacy Credits at L2 or higher (7 reading and 7 writing credits)

* GCE O-Level, IGCSE, GCSE or Oxford GCSE results.Schools can elect to have results presented on a 9-1 scale or an A to G grade
 # CIE Relevant subjects:AS/A' Level: English Language, Language and Literature in English, Literature in English OR IG Level: English First Language, English Literature
 ** NCEA Relevant subjects: L2 or higher. We accept credits from English or English for Academic Purposes
 *** Admissions reserve the right to request the student to re-sit a particular section if the subscore is deemed too low

Country-specific qualifications

We also accept the following country-specific qualifications. We may require you to have achieved a specific score or mark in an approved English-intensive subject within your qualification.

Country	Qualification
Australia	Recognised Year 12 qualification
Canada	Recognised Canadian High School Diploma
Denmark	Studentereksamen
Fiji	Fiji Year 12 Certificate Examination (7th Form)
Finland	Ylioppilastutkinoto, Studentexamen or the Upper Secondary School Certificate
Germany	Abitur or DAAD
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)
India	Indian School Certificate (ISC) or All-India Senior School Certificate (AISSC) Year 12 qualifications
Malaysia	STPM
Norway	Vitnemal
Samoa	Foundation English in Foundation Certificate from National University of Samoa
Singapore	National University of Singapore (NUS) High School Diploma or a three-year diploma from Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic
Sweden	Avgangsbetyg or Slutbetyg
South Africa	National Senior Certificate / Senior Certificate / Matriculation
South Pacific Countries	South Pacific Form Seven Certificate
The Netherlands	Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs (VWO)
Tonga	Tonga National Form Seven Certificate
USA	SAT, High School Diploma

Other acceptable English evidence

Evidence of secondary study in English by the student:
 Completion of at least four years of secondary education (being the equivalent of New Zealand secondary school years 9 to 13) at schools where the student was taught using English as the language of instruction.

Schools:
 For programmes delivered by a registered school - other acceptable evidence as approved by the Head of Admissions may be used for entry.

Successful completion of a programme at a language or registered school:
 UP Education Partner English Language School: Evidence of successfully meeting course assessment and graduation requirements at selected NZ Language Schools (NZQA Category One PTEs) who have an agreement with UP Education.

UP ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST (UPELT)

The UP English Language Test (UPELT) has been developed to provide prospective students with an opportunity to quickly obtain an English language score prior to enrolment into a programme of their choice.

The test is facilitated online by highly qualified and experienced staff. It consists of computer-based, hand-written, and examiner-led tasks. Test description and instructions for test preparation are made available to all prospective candidates in advance, and a practice test is provided. Measures are taken to ensure the integrity of the test.

The UPELT is facilitated every Wednesday afternoon (1pm NZ Standard Time). Bookings can be arranged through the UP Admissions Team, admissions@up.education.



UP English Language Test Summary

Part	Tasks	Time (Online)
Reading	3 short passages (approx. 300-400 words each) from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a textbook chapter or report• an academic article or essay• an academic abstract	45 minutes
Listening	2 tracks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a conversation in an academic setting• a part of a lecture	20 minutes (Plus time to record answers)
Writing	1 essay, 220-250 words <ul style="list-style-type: none">• problem and solution• cause and effect• advantage and disadvantages	40 minutes (Plus time to upload the essay)
Speaking	2 tasks led by an examiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a conversation on familiar topics• a discussion of a topical issue	10 minutes (Plus time for preparation)

One day before the test, candidates will be sent:

- information about the UPELT and technical requirements
- the test security procedure
- instructions on how to set up the room and desk for the test
- demonstration of how to use two devices with cameras during the test
- login instructions
- a practice test
- a Microsoft Teams link for joining the test

Learn more about UPELT

