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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	April 9, 2021
FROM	Wade Parkhouse, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	English Language Requirement Change (ELC) (SCUS 21-43)		

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Parkhouse", written in black ink.

Action undertaken by SCUS on April 8, 2021 gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That Senate approve that completion of SFU's English Language and Culture (ELC) Low Advanced Level satisfies the English language competency requirement for undergraduate admission to SFU starting Fall 2021.



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION SCUS DATE March 1, 2021
FROM Kathryn Verkerk
University Registrar and Executive Director,
Student Enrolment *pro tem*
RE: English Language Requirement change

Motion:

That SCUS approve and recommend to Senate that completion of SFU's English Language and Culture (ELC) Low Advanced Level satisfies the English language competency requirement for undergraduate admission to SFU starting Fall 2021.

Background:

For Information

For admission to SFU, applicants must satisfy the English Language Requirement (<https://www.sfu.ca/students/admission/admission-requirements/english-language-requirement.html>). They may demonstrate their competence in a variety of ways, including completing specified courses or programs of study in English, or by obtaining the requisite score in English proficiency tests such as IELTS or TOEFL.

English Language and Academic Preparation

For more than 25 years, SFU's English Language and Culture (ELC) program has been preparing learners for academic success. The program provides English language skills development within a well-designed curriculum and teaches the fundamentals of academic literacy indispensable to success for students for whom English is an additional language (EAL). The ELC program immerses learners in both the English language and the Canadian university environment, acculturating them to SFU and post-secondary learning in Canada before they enter credit studies.

BCCAT EAP IV Articulation

The British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) English for Academic Purposes (EAP) levels are the multilaterally accepted ESL course equivalencies across articulated language programs in British Columbia.

English for Academic Purposes Level IV (EAP IV) is an articulated standard for entry to post-secondary programs in British Columbia. “Students who have successfully completed Level IV of English for Academic Purposes will have the language skills necessary to enter post-secondary level academic, technology, career and vocational programs, including those requiring English 12 prerequisites.” (BCCAT, 2019)

ELC offers an advanced level, eight-week, full-time immersion program that articulates through BCCAT as EAP IV.

BCCAT EAP articulation levels are aligned with the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLBs). EAP IV aligns with CLB 8/9 outcomes, which for purposes of comparison, approximate IELTS levels 7/8.

SFU in Contrast to other RUCBC Member Institutes

Table One (below) compares IELTS and TOEFL English Language proficiency testing requirements for entrance to Undergraduate studies at the six RUCBC Member institutions.

Table One: Proficiency Testing for English Language Requirement (ELR)

Institution	Undergraduate ELR
SFU	IELTS 6.5 (no part less than 6.0) TOEFL iBT 90
UBC	IELTS 6.5 (no part less than 6.0) TOEFL iBT 90
UVic	IELTS 6.5 (no part less than 6.0) TOEFL iBT 90
UNBC	IELTS 6.5 (no part less than 6.0) TOEFL iBT 90
TRU	IELTS 6.5 (no part less than 6.0) TOEFL iBT 88
Royal Roads	IELTS 6.5 (no part less than 6.0) TOEFL iBT 88

In the table, we can see that the English Language Requirement from proficiency testing for Undergraduate Studies is relatively standard across the RUCBC members at IELTS 6.5 with no part lower than 6.0.

All RUCBC members except Simon Fraser University currently accept EAL Advanced Level language programs to satisfy the English Language Requirement for year-one undergraduate studies. Table Two below compares EAL Advanced levels and their acceptance for English Language Requirement in the six RUCBC member universities.

Table Two: EAL Advanced Level Programs and Acceptance for English Language Requirement in RUCBC Institutions

Institution	Institution-Delivered EAL Advanced Level	Accepted for ENGL Competency	BCCAT Articulated?
SFU	Low Advanced	No	Yes: EAP IV
UBC	CEL 600 (Lower Advanced)	Yes	Yes: EAP IV
UVic	University Admission Preparation (UAP)	Yes	Yes: EAP IV
UNBC	None (pathway in development)	Accepts any BCCAT EAP IV Program (with GPA 2.00)	N/A
TRU	Advanced Academic Preparation - ESL 5	Yes	Yes: EAP IV
Royal Roads	English for Academic Purposes (EAP) 3	Yes	No

As the table shows, UBC, UVic, TRU, and Royal Roads accept completion of their respective in-house EAL Advanced level programs. While UNBC’s program is currently in development, UNBC accepts completion of EAP IV-articulated programs from other universities in British Columbia.

In terms of BCCAT EAP IV Articulation, SFU, UBC, UVic, and TRU’s EAL Advanced levels are articulated to EAP IV as of Fall 2020. UNBC and Royal Roads courses are not currently articulated.

Conclusion

Adding the Low Advanced Level of ELC’s full-time immersion program as an accepted English Language Requirement is an opportunity to open additional pathways into the university for students for whom English is an additional language and brings SFU into alignment with other RUCBC members and post-secondary institutions across Canada.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn Verkerk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'K'.

Kathryn Verkerk

University Registrar and Executive Director, Student Enrolment *pro tem*

English Language Admission Requirement

English is the language of instruction at Simon Fraser University. All applicants, regardless of country of origin or citizenship status, will be required to demonstrate competence in the English language prior to admission. Competence is required in all four of the following skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Applicants to undergraduate programs must demonstrate English language competence in one of the following ways.

- Completion of the last three years of full-time secondary school education in English in Canada. A minimum grade of 70% in English Studies 12, English First Peoples 12, Literary Studies 12 or its equivalent in other provinces is required.
- Completion of the last three years of full-time secondary school education in English in a country in which the principal language of instruction is English. A minimum grade of C+ or 70% in senior level English is required.
- Completion of the last four years of full-time secondary school education in English at a recognized international school in a country in which the principal language of instruction is not English. A minimum grade of C+ or 70% in senior level English is required.
- Completion of IB Diploma Program including English A1 or A2 or English Literature and Performance (HL or SL) with a minimum grade of 3.
- Completion of a three unit English (ENGL) course or a certified W (writing intensive) course for which Simon Fraser University grants transfer credit, with a minimum grade of C-.
- **Completion of SFU's English Language and Culture (ELC) Low Advanced Level with a minimum grade of 80% or higher.**
- Obtain a satisfactory score on one of the following English language proficiency tests.
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum score of 6.5 on the Academic Modules with no part less than 6.
 - TOEFL iBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language internet based test) with an overall score of 88 or better with a minimum score of 20 in each of the four components (listening, speaking, writing, reading)
 - Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) with an overall score of 70, with no part less than 60
 - Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) with an overall score of 65, with no part less than 60

WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSE PREREQUISITE

All students must successfully complete at least two writing-intensive (W) courses to graduate with a bachelor's degree. Following admission, to register in a writing-intensive course, students will have achieved one of the following.

- a minimum final blended grade of 75% in English Studies 12 or Literary Studies 12 (or the equivalent)
- a minimum score of 7.0 on the IELTS with no part less than 6.5
- a minimum grade of C- in a three-unit English (ENGL) course or a certified W (writing intensive) course for which Simon Fraser University grants transfer credit
- a minimum score of 4 on the essay section of the Language Proficiency Index (LPI) and 50% or higher on all other parts
- a minimum grade of 4 on IB English A1 or A2 or English Literature and Performance (HL or SL)
- a minimum score of 4 on AP English
- a minimum score of 600 on SAT Writing
- a minimum score of 10 on ACT Writing
- a minimum grade of C in Simon Fraser University's Foundations of Academic Literacy course (FAL X99)