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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	June 7, 2024
FROM	Peter Hall, Chair	PAGES	1/1
	Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies		
RE:	Duolingo English Test Pilot - Extension (<i>SCUS 24-65</i>)		

Action undertaken by SCUS on June 6, 2024, gives rise to the following recommendations:

Motion

That Senate approve a subsequent two-year extension of the Duolingo English Test pilot for the Spring 2025 through to Fall 2026 terms.



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION SCUS **DATE** May 10, 2024
FROM Tom Nault
Registrar & Executive Director
RE: Re-Extension for Duolingo English Test to fulfill English Language Admission Requirement

Proposal

Simon Fraser University continues to accept the Duolingo English test (DET) on a pilot basis (Fall 2021 through to Fall 2026; including spring and summer terms) from students in countries where no other English proficiency test is available, in order to satisfy the English Language Requirement (ELR) for undergraduate admission.

Motion

That SCUS approve and recommend to Senate, a subsequent two-year extension of the Duolingo English Test pilot for the Spring 2025 through to Fall 2026 terms.

Background

In Fall 2020, Senate approved DET in response to the COVID-19 pandemic due to testing center closures worldwide; the pilot was extended in June 2023 to Fall 2024. Many institutions across Canada continue to allow students to use DET to satisfy their ELR (see Table 2). This proposal seeks to align the DET pilot period with SFU Graduate Studies, and the English language test requirements of comparator institutions.

DET is an online, English proficiency assessment for international students and recognized globally as a comparator to the IELTS and TOEFL iBT examinations. A study conducted by Cardwell et al. (2023) examined concordance of the DET with IELTS and TOEFL iBT. Results concluded that a DET score of 120 is comparable to a 6.5 overall IELTS and 87-92 overall TOEFL iBT examination score. SFU undergraduate admissions requires a minimum overall score of 125 for DET, 6.5 for IELTS and 88 for TOEFL.

Student Recruitment & Admissions intended to review first-year performance of students who used DET for admission in comparison to other ELR tests. Due to the small sample size depicted in Table 1, we are requesting for a further extension to the pilot for an additional two years in order to collect more data and more accurately estimate potential differences in student success. Table 1 has been updated to include the number of students who used the DET to satisfy ELR with scores above 125 (the minimum required score), and those who subsequently registered.

Table 1. DET Enrollment Snapshot

Calendar Year ¹	2021	2022	2023	2024
Admitted ² Students with Scores of 125 or higher	119	171	134	130
Registered	12	20	34	4 ³

¹ Calendar year: Spring – Fall

² Admitted students are from High School and Transfer Pathways (excluding Fraser International College)

³ Spring and Summer terms only; Fall 2024 registration begins in July

Table 2. Environmental Scan of Canadian University Duolingo Requirements for Undergraduate Studies

University	Minimum Score	Restrictions	Expiry
SFU Graduate Studies	Overall: 130; no sub-score below 120	N/A	Fall 2026
B.C. Universities:			
University of British Columbia	Overall: 125	Only accept the Duolingo English Test from students in countries where no other English proficiency test is available.	Not specified
University of Victoria	N/A	Has not been accepted for admission.	N/A
Alberta Universities:			
University of Alberta	140 for Spoken English Proficiency; no sub-score below 120	N/A	Fall 2028
University of Calgary	Overall: 120 Nursing requires overall: 130 Education requires overall: 150	N/A	Not specified
Ontario & Quebec Universities:			
McGill University	Overall: 125; B.Ed. & B.Com require 130	N/A	Not specified
McMaster University	Overall: 120	N/A	Not specified
Queen's University	Overall: 120	N/A	Not specified
University of Toronto	Overall: 120	N/A	Not specified
University of Waterloo	Overall: 120; sub-score of 110 required for literacy and production	N/A	Not specified

Note: Table is not comprehensive and meant to be a sample of Canadian University requirements

Reference

Cardwell, R. L., Nydick, S. W., Lockwood, J. R., & von Davier, A. A. (2024). Practical considerations when building concordances between English tests. *Language Testing*, 41(1), 192-202.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/02655322231195027>

Calendar Entry

<https://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2024/summer/fees-and-regulations/admission/undergraduate-admission.html#english-language-admission>

English Language Admission Requirement

[...]

- 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).
 - Completion of Cambridge English Qualifications B2 First, C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency with a minimum overall score of 176, with no part less than 169.
 - 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.
 - Duolingo English Test (DET)* with an overall score of 125 or better. *Pilot for Fall 2021 through ~~Fall 2024~~ Fall 2026; only accepted from students in countries where no other English proficiency test is available.