




OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

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www.sfu.ca/vpacademic**MEMORANDUM**

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ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	February 4, 2022
FROM	Wade Parkhouse, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	English Language Requirement Change (ELR) (SCUS 22-16)		

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Action undertaken by SCUS on February 3, 2022 gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That Senate approve that 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 satisfies the English language competency requirement for undergraduate admission to SFU starting Fall 2022.



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**MEMORANDUM**

**ATTENTION** SCUS **DATE** January 17, 2022  
**FROM** Tom Nault  
University Registrar and Executive Director,  
Student Enrolment  
**RE:** English Language Requirement change

**Motion**

That SCUS approve and recommend to Senate that 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 satisfies the English language competency requirement for undergraduate admission to SFU starting Fall 2022.

**Rationale**

Currently SFU does not accept the Cambridge English Qualification in order to fulfill SFU's English Language Requirement for undergraduate admission. It is, however, used to satisfy graduate admission.

In addition, the following Canadian universities accept Cambridge: Queens, Western, U of Toronto, UBC, McGill, U of Alberta, McMaster, U of Calgary, Waterloo, U of Ottawa, Dalhousie and York. To remain competitive and provide flexible English language competency requirement options to prospective students, Student Recruitment and Admissions recommends offering the Cambridge English Qualification at the above stated minimums.

**Background**

There is a well-established link between the Cambridge English Scale and the Common European Framework of Reference<sup>1</sup> (CEFR), and the current Cambridge score-reporting system reflects this. Results on the Cambridge English Scale are reached by applying the same underlying methodology, but the link between the Cambridge English qualifications and the CEFR is refined. This brings a greater clarity and transparency to score meanings and facilitates easy comparisons between different exams.

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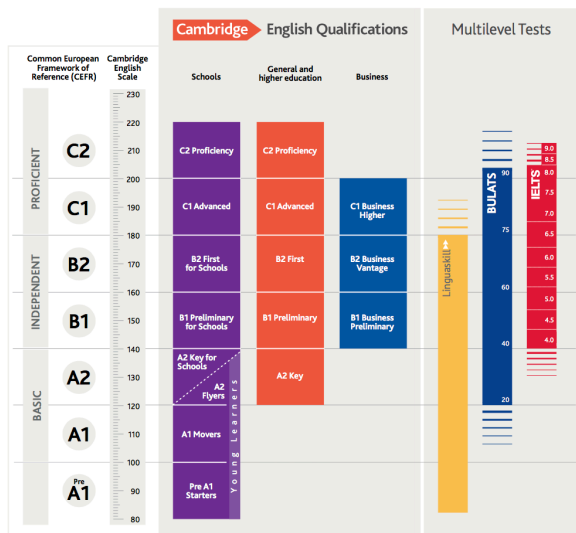
<sup>1</sup> *The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment (CEFR) was designed to provide a transparent, coherent and comprehensive basis for the elaboration of language syllabuses and curriculum guidelines, the design of teaching and learning materials, and the assessment of foreign language proficiency.*

The Scale was developed according to the well-documented and researched links between performance on different tests (using data from millions of candidates) and the processes by which we define and maintain standards.

B2 First is targeted at Level B2 on the CEFR. This qualification demonstrates that candidates have the language skills to live and work independently in an English-speaking country or study on courses taught in English at pre-degree level.

C1 Advanced is targeted at Level C1 on the CEFR. It is an in-depth qualification which shows that candidates have the high-level English language skills needed to study in English at undergraduate or postgraduate level, and to work and live in an English-speaking environment.

B2 First and C1 Advanced both report on the Cambridge English Scale, a single range of scores used to report results for Cambridge English Qualifications, as shown in the diagram below.



For reference, the table below details how Cambridge English Scale scores achieved in B2 First and C1 Advanced compare with IELTS\*\* band scores.

IELTS band score	Cambridge English Scale score
7.5	191
7.0	185
6.5	176
6.0	169
5.5	162
5.0	154

\* Further information about the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) can be found at [cambridgeenglish.org/cefr](http://cambridgeenglish.org/cefr).

\*\* IELTS is jointly owned by British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge Assessment English.

### **Using B2 First and C1 Advanced scores**

Every successful B2 First and C1 Advanced candidate receives a Statement of Results, which contains the following information:

1. Score – their overall score on the Cambridge English Scale.
2. Candidate profile – their score on the Cambridge English Scale for each of the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and for Use of English.
3. Grade – relates to the score and is a letter grade from A to C.
4. Candidates also receive an overall level on the CEFR.

Candidates who have secured scores between 160 and 172 on B2 First are awarded grade C on that exam and are placed at Level B2 on the CEFR.

Candidates who have secured a C1 Advanced grade C, having scored between 180 and 192 on the Cambridge English Scale, are at Level C1 of the CEFR and can be expected to be comparable in ability with candidates who have secured 6.5 or 7.0 in IELTS. Candidates who have secured scores between 180 and 190 in B2 First are awarded a grade A for that exam. They are also placed at Level C1 of the CEFR. However, the breadth of coverage of B2 First at this level is limited and very careful consideration would be needed before accepting scores on B2 First as comparable to IELTS scores of 7.0. Candidates who have secured scores of 160 to 179 on C1 Advanced are placed at Level B2 and may be expected to be comparable to candidates who have secured 5.5 or 6.0 in IELTS.

## **Appendix A – Calendar Language**

### 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:

(...)

- 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
- **Duolingo English Test (DET)\* with an overall score of 125 or better.**  
**\*Pilot for Fall 2021 through Fall 2023; only accepted from students in countries where no other English proficiency test is available.**
- **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.**