

Entry requirements for the HSC English (ESL) course

ACE 8007

Last Updated: 4 August 2015

The English (ESL) course may be studied by any student who has been educated overseas or in an Australian educational institution with English as the language of instruction for five years or less prior to commencing the Preliminary course.

This includes:

- students whose learning has been interrupted by periods away from education in which English was the language of instruction
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Indigenous communities where standard English is not the common language of the local community.

The onus is on students to provide evidence of their previous schooling.

Where it is difficult to ascertain the extent to which students have been using English as the language of instruction, entry to the course is determined on the basis of an assessment of their oral and written language competence.

An English as a Second Language (ESL) Eligibility Declaration must be completed (by the school and the student) for any student seeking entry to the course. This form is kept by the principal.

For a student who has had a substantially interrupted education, or little or no formal education in which English was the language of instruction, approval may be sought for up to 12 months to be added to the course entry requirements period. The **principal is required to send a submission**, including the completed declaration form, to BOSTES providing evidence of the student's individual circumstances.

Entry requirements for Stage 6 Languages courses where eligibility criteria apply

ACE 8008

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Eligibility criteria apply to:

- all Beginners Languages courses
- Continuers courses in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean
- all Languages in Context courses.

The HSC Languages Eligibility Criteria are set out in a common framework that describes course levels and target candidatures, and the continuum of language learning.

To be eligible for these courses, students are required to meet all of the course eligibility criteria at the time of entry to the course.

For the purpose of determining course eligibility:

- speakers of dialects and variants of a language are considered to be speakers of the standard language
- speakers of Indonesian and speakers of Malay are considered to be speakers of both languages
- formal education is 'education that is institutionalised, intentional and planned through public organizations and recognised private bodies, and -- in their totality -- constitute the formal education system of a country.' (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, International Standard Classification of Education, 2011, para 36).

Eligibility is determined by the principal of the school delivering the course.

The authority to determine eligibility is **delegated to principals** by NESA.

Documentary evidence supporting the principal's determination must be retained by the school until the student completes the HSC language course.

Stage 6 Languages eligibility appeals

ACE 8009

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If a student believes that the eligibility determination has not been made in accordance with the course eligibility criteria, the student can seek **a review** of the determination, initially from the principal. If, following the principal's review, the student remains ineligible to undertake a particular Language course, the student may appeal to the NSW Education Standards Authority.

Principals should inform students of the review and appeal procedures and provide students with the relevant forms on request.