

WOU International Admissions Testing Requirements

| | Undergraduate | Graduate |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|
| Paper-based TOEFL | 500 | 550 |
| Internet-based TOEFL | 61 | 79 |
| IELTS Test | 5.0 | 6.0 |

| TOEFL Score | IELTS Band |
|-------------|------------|
| 0-31 | 0-4 |
| 32-34 | 4.5 |
| 35-45 | 5 |
| 46-59* | 5.5 |
| 60-78* | 6 |
| 79-93* | 6.5 |
| 94-101* | 7 |
| 102-109* | 7.5 |
| 110-114 | 8 |
| 115-117 | 8.5 |
| 118-120 | 9 |

| | TOEFL | IELTS** |
|--|---|---|
| Sections: reading, writing, listening | Reading - 60-80 minutes, 36-56 questions Listening 60-90 minutes, 34-51 questions Mainly American accents Writing- 50 minutes, 2 tasks | Reading- 60 minutes, 40 questions Listening- 30 minutes, 40 questions Mainly British accents Writing- 60 minutes, 2 tasks |
| Speaking | Speaking- 20 minutes, 6 tasks Recorded using a microphone | Speaking- 11-14 minutes face-to-face interview with a test administrator |
| Total Test Time | One sitting, half a day One ten minute break | 2 hours, 45 minutes No breaks Can be taken in one day or speaking part can be taken up to seven days before or after test day. |
| Application Process | Register and pay online | Print out and complete paper application including two passport sized photos and a photo copy of your passport or approved ID. Mail it or bring it in to the testing centre along with payment prior to the day of your test. |
| Cost | Costs range from about US\$165 to US\$250 Four score reports included with the application fee | Cost is around US\$200 in local currency Up to five score reports included with the application fee |
| Scoring | 1-30 points possible for each and four sections with a total of 120 points | Scored on a scale of 1-9 with 9 being an expert proficiency |
| Retaking the test | Retake the test as much as you want but no more than once within a 12 day period | No restrictions, take it as much as you want when it's offered |

• WOU TOEFL and IELTS scores are misaligned, IELTS requirement considerably easier to achieve, so students will take that instead

• Universities in the US tend to favor the TOEFL whereas the universities in the other English speaking nations tend to favor IELTS*

*SI NEWS (Independent News for International Students)

• TOEFL longer than IELTS, many studies say harder

• Visual Communication Design is inherently a language-intensive program. IELTS guidance suggests that our score requirement (5) is far too low without more English study needed. In fact, even a score of 7 is only “probably” acceptable in linguistically demanding programs/courses.

Guidance for educational institutions

The table below gives guidance on acceptable IELTS band score requirements for different programmes. However, it should be noted that many diverse variables can affect student performance, of which language ability is but one.

| Band Score | Linguistically demanding academic courses | Linguistically less demanding academic courses | Linguistically demanding training courses | Linguistically less demanding training courses |
|------------|---|--|---|--|
| 7.5 - 9 | Acceptable | Acceptable | Acceptable | Acceptable |
| 7.0 | Probably acceptable | Acceptable | Acceptable | Acceptable |
| 6.5 | English study needed | Probably acceptable | Acceptable | Acceptable |
| 6.0 | English study needed | English study needed | Probably acceptable | Acceptable |
| 5.5 | English study needed | English study needed | English study needed | Probably acceptable |