

English language requirements guidance – Skilled Worker Visa

In order to be granted a Skilled Worker Visa, you must meet the English language requirement. Only **one** of the following needs to be applicable to meet the requirement, but please note that these are the **only** means by which it is possible to meet the English language requirement.

1. Exemptions

You are exempt from meeting the English language requirement if you:

- are aged 65 and over;
- are aged under 18;
- have a disability (physical or mental condition) which prevents you from meeting the requirement.

2. National of a ‘majority English-speaking’ country

You will automatically meet the English language requirement if you are a citizen of one of the following countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Malta
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United States of America

If you currently hold dual citizenship which includes one of the countries above, but you are not applying on the basis of that passport, you should include the details in your visa application (under “Do you currently hold, or have you ever held, any other nationality or citizenship?”). You will then meet the English language requirement without needing to satisfy any of the other criteria.

3. Previous grant of visa for the UK

You will automatically meet the English language requirement if you have already done so as part of a previous successful visa application (e.g. for a Tier 2 or Tier 4/Student visa). If you did so by providing an approved English language test, the level must have been at least CEFR B1 in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

4. Passed an approved English language test at the required level

The full list of approved tests can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt>

5. Awarded a degree taught in English

It is possible to meet the English language requirements by holding at least a Bachelor’s degree, but this will depend on **firstly**, whether it was taught in English, and **secondly** it being recognised by the independent body Ecctis (formerly UK NARIC) as being equivalent to at least a UK Bachelor’s degree.

The guidance overleaf will assist you in determining what evidence/procedure you need to follow to prove your degree meets English Language requirement.

Country in which degree was awarded	Evidence Required
UK	<p>The degree certificate, a transcript or letter confirming the qualification has been awarded</p>
<p>Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Malta, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America</p>	<p>Where the degree was taught in one of these countries, it will <u>always</u> be assumed by UKVI to have been taught in English.</p> <p>However, you must use the Ecctis Visas and Nationality service (English proficiency) service to verify the degree is equivalent at least a UK bachelor's degree: https://www.ecctis.com/visasandnationality</p> <p>You do not need to also use the Ecctis Visas and Nationality service (PhD verification), which is used for a different aspect of the SWV route.</p>
Rest of the World	<p>If the degree was awarded in any other country, you must use the Visas and Nationality service (English proficiency) service to verify the degree was taught in English and is equivalent at least a UK bachelor's degree: https://www.ecctis.com/visasandnationality</p> <p>You do not need to also use the Ecctis Visas and Nationality service (PhD verification), which is used for a different aspect of the SWV route.</p>