

## **EQI Process for Assessing Academic and English Language Proficiency Entry Requirements**

Education Queensland International (EQI) is registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) as a Registered Provider of courses to international students in Queensland. EQI provides primary and secondary school courses to international students through selected Queensland Government Schools. As a Registered Provider, EQI must comply with the provisions of the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2007 (National Code 2007).

The National Code 2007 sets out the requirements of education providers in relation to the educational outcomes and services which must be delivered to students on student visas.

Standard 2 of the National Code 2007 requires Registered Providers to have and implement documented procedures to assess whether the international student's qualifications, experience and English language proficiency are appropriate for the course for which enrolment is sought. Section 6 of the Education (Overseas Students) Regulation 1998 provides that the documented procedures must include a description of how the Registered Provider will inform an international student or intending international student about the entry requirements for each registered course offered by them and the processes for applying the entry requirements to each international student.

The guidelines outlined below state the procedure followed by EQI in relation to the assessment of international students' qualifications, experience and English language proficiency.

### Application Assessment Guidelines

Part 7 of the Queensland Government Schools International Student Application Form requires applicants to include information regarding their education history. This policy and information regarding academic and English language requirements for entry into EQI programs is made available to prospective students on the EQI website and through Agents.

Applications received from prospective international students will be assessed according to the following general academic and English language requirements. A prospective student who is assessed as meeting the academic and English language criteria will be made an offer of a place in the EQI International Student Program. Candidates who do not meet the criteria may be made a conditional offer of a place with a requirement to complete a preparation program or alternatively, unsuitable applicants may not be offered a place in the EQI International Student Program.

EQI processing officers will also take into consideration the following factors when assessing a prospective student's application request –

1. any compulsory subjects required for the student to continue studying while attending a Queensland Government school;
2. behaviour and attitude to school;
3. if the student already has a student visa and education contract with another education provider (Standard 7 of the National Code refers);
4. any subject requests included in the International Student Application Form; and
5. any psychological, medical, personal or other factors.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have studied English as a subject for at least the previous two years either at school or externally. EQI reserves the right to waive this requirement in the case of very young students (i.e. siblings).

The following English language proficiency levels are required to be demonstrated for direct entry to the international Student program:

<b>Year level</b>	<b>General IELTS (4 skills at)</b>	<b>AEAS</b>	<b>ISLPR (4 skills at)</b>	<b>NLLIA Bandscales (4 scores at)</b>
8	4.5	46-52	1+	4
9	4.5	46-52	1+	4
10 Semester 1	5	53-60	2	5
10 Semester 2	5.5	61-65	2+	5
11 Semester 1	5.5	61-65	2+	5+ or 6
11 Semester 2	2 x 5.5, 2 x 6	66-70	2 x 2+, 2 x 3	6
12	6	70+	3	6

Primary school applicants will enter school directly with an English as a Second Language (ESL) supported program.

### What happens when direct entry English language proficiency requirement is not met?

Unless an English test result is provided at the time of application or the student's language of instruction is English, most students in the high school program are generally expected to undertake 2 terms of High School Preparation course at a Queensland Government School prior to entry to mainstream school.

## ACADEMIC

Applicants are required to have achieved success in a year level comparable to the Queensland year level preceding that to which they are applying for entry (e.g. successful in a comparable Year 9 for entry into Queensland Year 10).

Generally a student will not be progressed beyond their level of achievement in a course (i.e. if a student has completed Semester 1 of the equivalent of Year 10, they should be enrolled in Semester 2 Year 10 in Queensland). More flexibility is available in the placement of primary and junior secondary students and generally if a student has good to excellent results it is possible to promote the student for a maximum of one term to accommodate the mismatch of academic programs between countries.

This flexibility will not usually be applied to senior secondary students as the assessment requirements for these students are more critical, particularly when a student is looking to enter university. Senior secondary students require results in at least 3 semesters in order to be accepted into most universities.

Success is indicated by at least a pass in all subjects (especially in core subjects) i.e. a pass or average results as indicated by the home country grading system.

In general, core subjects are the student's first language, mathematics, a science subject and a humanities subject. For applicants entering senior secondary school, core subjects are those that provide the necessary background for success in the subjects they wish to study in Years 11 and 12 (e.g. a student wishing to study maths/science subjects should have passes in these subjects).

Please Note: Students applying for the Study Abroad program must achieve satisfactory results in English, which must be demonstrated by their last two years of school reports.

In assessing the comparability of academic results, EQI processing officers use the Country Education Profiles published by the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).

#### What happens when the academic entry criteria is not met

An applicant who does not meet the academic entry criteria may be considered if:

1. he or she meets the English language proficiency requirement, and
2. school reports/references indicate he or she has the character/disposition to adjust well to the secondary school environment in Queensland, and
3. the Queensland school, with full knowledge of his or her background, agrees to accept the applicant; and
4. he or she has satisfactory results which demonstrate academic capability from a recognised test (e.g. AEAS).

Each application in this category should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### Age-appropriateness

While age is not a critical factor in determining year level placement, there may be situations where the applicant's maturity makes a higher year level appropriate (e.g. applicants who meet the academic criteria for Year 7 but are 14 years of age). The following conditions should be met:

1. the student has better than average results in his or her home country;
2. the student has an English language ability level appropriate to the higher year level; and
3. additional academic support or flexible timetabling is available.

Students applying for a place in high school should not have exited their home school more than 6 months prior to commencing their EQI program. EQI does not enroll "mature age" international students who have already turned 20 prior to their commencement in an EQI program.

Each application in this category should be considered on its own merit on a case-by-case basis.

**571 Student Visa Requirements by Country Assessment Level (current as at 1 August 2007)**

<b>Assessment Level</b>	<b>Age Restrictions</b>	<b>Duration of Program</b>	<b>Educational Requirements</b>	<b>English Requirements</b>	<b>Visa Requirements</b>
1	Be 6 years of age at time of submitting application	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Be 6 years of age at time of submitting application	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3	<p>Students must be of an age that is appropriate to the proposed Year level. An appropriate age means that if the Student is undertaking:</p> <p>Year 9 you will be less than 17 years of age when commencing Year 9;</p> <p>Year 10 you will be less than 18 years of age when commencing Year 9;</p> <p>Year 11 you will be less than 19 years of age when commencing Year 11;</p> <p>Year 12 you will be less than 20 years of age when commencing Year 12.</p> <p>If Students are applying to undertake a course in Australia below Year 9, the Student must be of an age consistent with the above ages.</p>	Secondary school course will be of at least 16 months' duration.	Students must have completed Year 6 or equivalent.	Initial offer of no more than 40 weeks English Preparation and no more than 60 weeks in total or Students need to have successfully undertaken, outside Australia, a recognised secondary course of at least 2 years' duration with an Australian curriculum and conducted in English by an Australian provider. (This rule does not apply to applications for a further school sector visa in Australia.)	PVA required unless the Student has applied via E-visa.
4	<p>Students must be of an age that is appropriate to proposed Year level. An appropriate age means that if the Student is undertaking:</p> <p>Year 9 you will be less than 17 years of age when commencing Year 9;</p> <p>Year 10 you will be less than 18 years of age when commencing Year 9;</p> <p>Year 11 you will be less than 19 years of age when commencing Year 11;</p> <p>Year 12 you will be less than 20 years of age when commencing Year 12.</p>	Secondary school course will be at least 16 months' duration.	Students must have completed Year 9 or equivalent.	Initial offer of no more than 30 weeks English Preparation and no more than 40 weeks in total or Students need to have successfully undertaken, outside Australia, a recognised secondary course of at least 2 years' duration with an Australian curriculum and conducted in English by an Australia provider. (This rule does not apply to applications for a further school sector visa in Australia.)	PVA required unless the Student has applied via E-Visa. Students can't regress more than 18 months in their studies. Student must also meet the IELTS waiver requirement or must supply an approved English test result.