GHERSON

Gherson LLP
17a-19 Harcourt St,
London, W1H 4HF

+44 20 7724 4488
info@gherson.com

English Language Requirement for a Skilled Worker Visa

To be eligible for a Skilled Worker visa you must be able to show a certain level of English language. The level is at least level B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, demonstrated in all 4 components (reading, writing, speaking and listening).

You can meet the English Language requirement in a number of different ways, please see below a high-level outline:

1. Extending, updating or switching your Skilled Worker visa from within the UK

You will meet the English language requirement if you met the English language requirement in a previous UK visa application, provided the previous English language level was at the required level of English that is required for the present application.

If you're applying to switch from a different visa, you need level B2.

2. Nationality

You will meet the English language requirement if you are a national of any of the following majority-English-speaking countries:

Antigua and Barbuda	Guyana
Australia	Jamaica
The Bahamas	Malta
Barbados	New Zealand
Belize	St Kitts and Nevis
The British overseas territories	St Lucia
Canada	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Dominica	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	US

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3. Academic degree taught in English

You will meet the English language requirement if you have:

a. a bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctorate awarded in the UK; or
b. a degree or degree-level qualification taught in a university or college in a majority- English-speaking country[1] (except Canada), or Ireland, which meets or exceeds the recognised standard of a bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctorate awarded in the UK; or
c. a degree or degree level qualification which meets, or exceeds, the recognised standard of a UK bachelor's degree; master's degree or doctorate and was taught or researched in English but was from a non-majority English speaking country.

If your degree is from a UK university, you will need to provide only your degree certificate.

If your degree was not from a UK university, you'll need to provide:

- a copy of your degree certificate;
- a copy of your transcript;
- an Academic Qualification Level Statement (AQUALS) from ECCTIS confirming the degree is equivalent to a UK qualification; and
- If your degree is from a non-majority English-speaking country[2] you'll also need an English Language Proficiency Statement (ELPS) from ECCTIS confirming the degree was taught in English.

Please note that the ECCTIS confirmation must be the visa and nationality service.

4. GCSE, International GCSE, A Level or Scottish equivalent in English

You will meet the English Language requirement if you have:

A GCSE, A level, Scottish National Qualification at level 4 or 5 or, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher, in English (language or literature), that was awarded:

- by an Ofqual (or SQA, Qualifications Wales or CCEA) regulated awarding body; and
- following education undertaken in a UK based school which began while you were aged under 18.

You'll need to provide:

- a certificate from the awarding body: or
- an official transcript issued by the awarding body

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5. Taking a secure English Test at an approved test centre

You can meet the English Language requirement by passing a secure, approved Secure English Language Test (known as SELT) at a specified level.

The test must be at CEFR level B2 or above, and will include an assessment of your Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening Skills.

If you are meeting the requirement through this option, we can provide further guidance regarding acceptable tests and approved centres as it is **essential** that you sit an appropriate test, that is approved for UKVI purposes.

Only certain companies are authorised to deliver the secure test. We have listed these providers below and provided links to their websites. It is important to note that these providers also offer English Language tests that are **not** UKVI approved.

Please note that providers may sometimes change the names of the tests they provide. If you are in any doubt about whether you are taking the right test, please send us details before you book.

You can also find more details on the government website – including a list of approved test centres in the UK and overseas.

If you wish to prepare for the test, you will find useful information on the provider's websites, including details of the format and sample questions.

Booking a test

If you are **in the UK**, you can only take a SELT test with one of the following providers	If you are **outside the UK**, you can only take a SELT tet with one of the following providers
IELTS SELT Consortium: IELTS for UKVI General / Academic	IELTS SELT Consortium - IELTS for UKVI (General) or IELTS Life Skills
LanguageCert: LanguageCert International ESOL SELT, LanguageCert Academic SELT or LanguageCert General SELT	LanguageCert - LanguageCert International ESOL SELT, LanguageCert Academic SELT or LanguageCert General SELT
Pearson: PTE Academic UKVI	Pearson: PTE Academic UKVI
Trinity College London: Secure English Language Tests for UKVI – Integrated Skills in English (ISE)	PSI Services (UK) Ltd: 'Skills for English UKVI'

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After the test

After your pass the test, you will be given a SELT unique reference number which you must use when making your application.

You will find your SELT unique reference number of your test result as:

- 'UER' for Trinity College London tests
- 'UKVI number' for IELTS SELT Consortium tests
- 'Candidata URN' FOR LanguageCert tests
- 'SELT URN' for Pearson tests
- 'URN' for PSI Skills for English tests

If there is not an approved test location in your country, you can travel to another country to take the test.

Please note that availability of tests at approved centres may be limited, and you may need to book several weeks in advance.

Test results are valid for 2 years from the date the test is awarded.

6. Requirements for skilled professions

If you are being sponsored to work as a doctor, dentist, nurse, midwife or veterinarian, you will meet the English Language requirement if you have passed an English Language assessment which is accepted by the relevant regulated professional body as a requirement for registration.

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