

ISZL English as an Additional Language (EAL) Requirements

At ISZL we require students who come from non-English speaking backgrounds or who have been educated in a language other than English to show evidence that they have met an English level to enter some grades. We use the internationally-recognised Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) to evaluate prospective students.

| Grade | CEFR Level* | CEFR Description* | ISZL Description | Accepted English Language Certificates |
|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 7 (Entry January -June) | A2 (Waystage) | Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, school). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need. | EAL Phase 2 (Upper Beginner) | <i>Cambridge KET Pass</i> |
| 8 | B1 (Threshold) | Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in school. Can deal with most social situations likely to arise in school. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. | EAL Phase 3 (Lower Intermediate) | <i>Cambridge KET Distinction, Cambridge PET Pass</i> |
| 8 (Entry January - June) | B1/B2 (Threshold/Vantage) | Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters and some points in more complex discussions. Can deal with most social situations in English, but finds some academic English demands more challenging. Can produce simple connected text on most familiar topics and some complex and detailed text on unfamiliar topics. Can give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans on familiar topics and some more abstract topics. | EAL Phase 3-4 (Intermediate) | <i>Cambridge KET Distinction, Cambridge PET Pass</i> |
| 9 & 10 | B2 (Vantage) | Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options. | EAL Phase 4 (Upper Intermediate) | <i>Cambridge PET Distinction, Cambridge FCE grade C, IELTS 6/6.5</i> |
| 11 & 12 | C1 (Effective Operational Proficiency) | Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices. | EAL Phase 5 (Advanced) | <i>Cambridge FCE grade A, Cambridge CAE grade C, Cambridge CPE grade C, IELTS 6.5/7</i> |