

# AVBC English Language Standards

March 2025

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc (AVBC) requires all applicants to demonstrate that their English language skills are suitable for the practice of veterinary science in Australia and New Zealand. This document explains how to provide evidence to prove that you meet the AVBC English language standards.

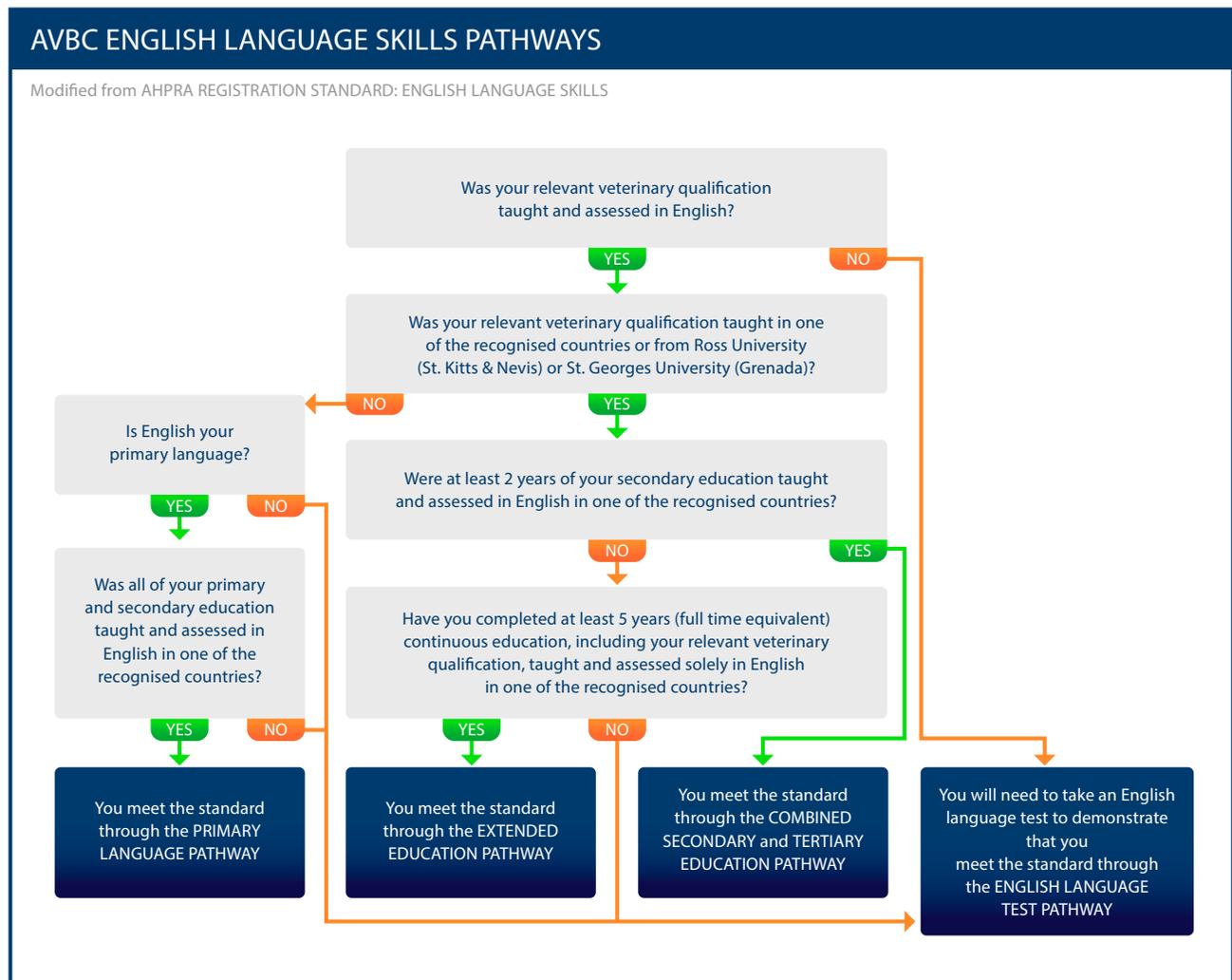
## Background

To practise safely in Australia and New Zealand, registered veterinarians must have strong English language skills. They must be able to communicate effectively with clients, collaborate with colleagues and peers in the veterinary profession and keep clear and accurate medical records. The English language standards set by the AVBC help to ensure that all applicants possess these skills, regardless of their language background or visa status.

The AVBC English Language Standard is applied to processes including AVE Eligibility Assessments or Migration Skills Assessments. The standard offers four pathways for applicants to demonstrate that they have the necessary English language skills to safely practise as a veterinarian in Australia and New Zealand.

This guide sets out the evidence requirements for each of the four pathways.

You must provide accurate information. You will need to sign a declaration on the application form that the information you provide is true and correct, including the information you provide about your English language skills.



# Evidence requirements guide

## 1. Primary language pathway

English is your primary language and you have undertaken and satisfactorily completed:

a) all of your primary and secondary education, taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country

AND

b) tertiary qualifications in veterinary science/medicine, which you are relying on to support your eligibility for veterinary registration in Australia or New Zealand, which were taught and assessed solely in English.

If you are using this pathway, English must be your primary language. This means that English is the language used primarily for reading, writing, listening, and speaking and is the language known best and with which you are most comfortable.

For part (a) you will need to complete the table in the application form listing full details of your primary and secondary education. See sample table below.

For part (b), if your qualification does not appear on the [Qualifications Recognised by AVBC](#) document, and your transcript does not show that the program of study was taught and assessed solely in English, you will also need to arrange for a letter to be sent directly to AVBC by your education provider.

If your qualification appears on the [Qualifications Recognised by AVBC](#) document, you do not need to arrange a letter from your education provider under part (b) unless requested.

Select which English Language Pathway you are eligible for:

Primary language pathway

Extended education pathway

Combined secondary and tertiary education pathway

## AVBC ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVIDENCE FORM

| Timeframe       | Level                                      | Program Name                             | Institution   | Website and Contact email or Phone number | Recognised Country                                   | Primary Language of tuition | Study Status |                                     |                                      |                                     |
|-----------------|--|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Study Commenced | Primary <input checked="" type="radio"/>   | Primary education                        | St Bridget's National School, Newbridge Co. Kildare | www.aber.ac.uk<br>admin@aber.ac.uk        | Australia <input type="radio"/>                      | English                     | Full-time    |                                     |                                      |                                     |
| 1/9/89          | Secondary <input type="radio"/>            |  |   |   | South Africa <input type="radio"/>                   |                             |              | Canada <input type="radio"/>        | United Kingdom <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Study Completed | Vocational <input type="radio"/>           |  |   |   | New Zealand <input type="radio"/>                    |                             |              | United States <input type="radio"/> | Part-time                            |                                     |
| 1/6/97          | Tertiary <input type="radio"/>             |  |   |   | Republic of Ireland <input checked="" type="radio"/> |                             |              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                      |                                     |
| Study Commenced | Primary <input type="radio"/>              | Junior certificate & Leaving certificate | St Mary's College, Naas Co. Kildare                 | www.osu.com<br>admissions@osu.com         | Australia <input type="radio"/>                      | English                     | Full-time    |                                     |                                      |                                     |
| 1/9/97          | Secondary <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  |   |   | South Africa <input type="radio"/>                   |                             |              | Canada <input type="radio"/>        | United Kingdom <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Study Completed | Vocational <input type="radio"/>           |  |   |   | New Zealand <input type="radio"/>                    |                             |              | United States <input type="radio"/> | Part-time                            |                                     |
| 1/6/02          | Tertiary <input type="radio"/>             |  |   |   | Republic of Ireland <input checked="" type="radio"/> |                             |              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                      |                                     |

## 2. Combined secondary and tertiary education pathway

You have a combination of secondary education and tertiary qualifications, where you have undertaken and satisfactorily completed:

a) at least two years of your secondary education which was taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country

AND

b) tertiary qualifications in veterinary science/medicine, which you are relying on to support your eligibility for veterinary registration in Australia or New Zealand, which were taught and assessed solely in English.

If you are using this pathway, you will need to do the following:

For part (a), complete the table in the application form listing details of your relevant secondary education. See sample table below.

As part of an AVE Eligibility Assessment or Skills Assessment application, a certified copy of your transcript(s) or digital copies that can be verified online must be provided.

For part (b), if your qualification does not appear on the [Qualifications Recognised by AVBC](#) document, and your transcript does not show that the program of study was taught and assessed solely in English, you will also need to arrange for a letter to be sent directly to AVBC by your education provider.

If your qualification appears on the [Qualifications Recognised by AVBC](#) document, you do not need to arrange a letter from your education provider under part (b) unless requested.

Select which English Language Pathway you are eligible for:

Primary language pathway

Extended education pathway

Combined secondary and tertiary education pathway

## AVBC ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVIDENCE FORM

| Timeframe       | Level                                      | Program Name                   | Institution             | Website and Contact email or Phone number | Recognised Country                         |                                      | Primary Language of tuition | Study Status |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
|                 |  |                                |                         |   |  |                                      |                             |              |
| Study Commenced | Primary <input type="radio"/>              | HSC                            | Brisbane Grammar School | www.brisbanegrammar.com                   | Australia <input checked="" type="radio"/> | South Africa <input type="radio"/>   | English                     | Full-time    |
| 1/2/02          | Secondary <input checked="" type="radio"/> |                                |                         |   | Canada <input type="radio"/>               | United Kingdom <input type="radio"/> |                             |              |
| Study Completed | Vocational <input type="radio"/>           |                                |                         |   | New Zealand <input type="radio"/>          | United States <input type="radio"/>  |                             | Part-time    |
| 1/12/04         | Tertiary <input type="radio"/>             |                                |                         |   | Republic of Ireland <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>             |                             |              |
| Study Commenced | Primary <input type="radio"/>              | Bachelor of Veterinary Science | UQ                      | www.uq.edu.au<br>vetschool@uq.edu.au      | Australia <input checked="" type="radio"/> | South Africa <input type="radio"/>   | English                     | Full-time    |
| 1/2/05          | Secondary <input type="radio"/>            |                                |                         |   | Canada <input type="radio"/>               | United Kingdom <input type="radio"/> |                             |              |
| Study Completed | Vocational <input type="radio"/>           |                                |                         |   | New Zealand <input type="radio"/>          | United States <input type="radio"/>  |                             | Part-time    |
| 1/12/10         | Tertiary <input checked="" type="radio"/>  |                                |                         |   | Republic of Ireland <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>             |                             |              |

### 3. Extended education pathway

You have undertaken and satisfactorily completed at least five years (full-time equivalent) continuous education, including your relevant veterinary qualification, taught and assessed solely in English, in any of the recognised countries.

If you are using this pathway, you will need to do the following:

For part (a), complete the table in the application form listing details of the education you are relying on. As part of an AVE Eligibility Assessment or Skills Assessment application, a certified copy of your transcript(s) or digital copies that can be verified online must be provided.

For part (b), if your qualification does not appear on the [Qualifications Recognised by AVBC](#) document, and your transcript does not show that the program of study was taught and assessed solely in English, you will also need to arrange for a letter to be sent directly to AVBC by your education provider.

If your qualification appears on the [Qualifications Recognised by AVBC](#) document, you do not need to arrange a letter from your education provider under part (b) unless requested.

See sample table below.

Select which English Language Pathway you are eligible for:

Primary language pathway

Extended education pathway

Combined secondary and tertiary education pathway

## AVBC ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVIDENCE FORM

| Timeframe       | Level                                     | Program Name                                | Institution               | Website and Contact email or Phone number | Recognised Country                        |   | Primary Language of tuition | Study Status |
|-----------------|---|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|--------------|
|                 |   |   |                           |   |   |   |                             |              |
| Study Commenced | Primary <input type="radio"/>             | Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) | University of Aberystwyth | www.aber.ac.uk<br>admin@aber.ac.uk        | Australia <input type="radio"/>           | South Africa <input type="radio"/>              | English                     | Full-time    |
| 1/9/06          | Secondary <input type="radio"/>           |   |                           |   | Canada <input type="radio"/>              | United Kingdom <input checked="" type="radio"/> |                             |              |
| Study Completed | Vocational <input type="radio"/>          |   |                           |   | New Zealand <input type="radio"/>         | United States <input type="radio"/>             |                             | Part-time    |
| 1/6/10          | Tertiary <input checked="" type="radio"/> |   |                           |   | Republic of Ireland <input type="radio"/> |   |                             |              |
| Study Commenced | Primary <input type="radio"/>             | Doctor of Veterinary Medicine               | The Ohio State University | www.osu.com<br>admissions@osu.com         | Australia <input type="radio"/>           | South Africa <input type="radio"/>              | English                     | Full-time    |
| 1/9/10          | Secondary <input type="radio"/>           |   |                           |   | Canada <input type="radio"/>              | United Kingdom <input type="radio"/>            |                             |              |
| Study Completed | Vocational <input type="radio"/>          |   |                           |   | New Zealand <input type="radio"/>         | United States <input checked="" type="radio"/>  |                             | Part-time    |
| 1/6/14          | Tertiary <input checked="" type="radio"/> |   |                           |   | Republic of Ireland <input type="radio"/> |   |                             |              |

## 4. English language test pathway

You achieve the required minimum scores in one of the **approved** English language tests specified here:

- **IELTS (academic module)** with a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking). IELTS One Skill Retake is accepted.
- **OET** with a minimum score of B or 350 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking), achieved in a single test sitting.
- **PTE Academic** with a minimum score of 65 in each of the four communicative skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking), achieved in a single test sitting.
- **TOEFL iBT** with a minimum score in each section of the test as follows:
  - 24 for listening
  - 24 for reading
  - 27 for writing
  - 23 for speaking

achieved in a single test sitting.

AND

the test was taken within the **three years** before the date you lodge your application.

For this pathway, you will need to include your copy of your test results with your application, including the reference number required to verify your results online.

If you are relying on:

- the PTE Academic test, you should authorise PTE Academic to make your test results available to AVBC;
- the OET test, you should authorise OET to make your test results available to AVBC.

An English language test result is current for AVBC purposes for three years. A new test result must be provided after that time.

Your test results will be verified independently with the test provider.

You are responsible for the cost of English language tests.

## Requests for consideration of exemption from an English language test

**NOTE: This does not apply to AVE Eligibility Assessment applicants.**

If you achieved the test standards **more than three years** before the date you lodge your application and you wish to be considered for an exemption from the English language test you must provide evidence to demonstrate maintenance of your English language ability.

You should provide the following:

- a) a copy of English test results that meet the standard and can be verified online
- AND
- b) proof of continuous employment or study in a recognised country.

When you are relying on **continuous employment**, a copy of your CV should be provided and:

- a) a letter from employer/s confirming continuous employment as a registered veterinarian in a recognised country where English is the primary language of practice, making specific reference to your English language ability.
- OR
- b) a letter from a veterinary supervisor/peer confirming continuous employment as a registered veterinarian in a recognised country, making specific reference to your English language ability.

When you are relying on **continuous education** to extend the validity of your test results, a certified copy or digital copy of your academic transcript should be provided. This should demonstrate that the course was taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country. If this is not readily apparent, the academic transcript should be accompanied by a letter from the education provider.

## Glossary

**AVE** means Australasian Veterinary Examination.

**Continuous employment** means working the equivalent of at least 26 weeks per year, full-time

**Continuous education** means education over consecutive calendar years without a break from study apart from the educational institution's scheduled holidays.

**Primary education** means Australian school years one (1) through to six (6) inclusive (or equivalent).

**Primary language** means the language primarily used for reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It is the language known best and with which the applicant is most comfortable.

**Recognised countries** means the following countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States.

**Relevant veterinary qualification** means the tertiary qualifications in veterinary science/medicine, which you are relying on to support your eligibility for veterinary registration in Australia or New Zealand.

**Secondary education** means Australian school years 7 through to 12, even where year 7 is classified as part of primary school in a particular state or territory.

**Tertiary qualifications** means a degree or diploma awarded after *at least four years* of study at a veterinary school which appears on the [AVMA ECFVG®-Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World](#) or which was part of a college or university listed in the "[World List of Universities](#)".