

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS: AVBC standards

A comprehensive knowledge of English is essential to the practice of veterinary science in Australia and New Zealand. 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 Australasia.

This document sets out how applicants can demonstrate to AVBC their competency in speaking and communicating in English.

This standard applies to all applicants for registration, Skills Assessment and NVE Eligibility Assessment.

## What must I do?

You must demonstrate your English language competency in one of the following ways:

1. English is your **primary language**:
  - a. you are a native speaker of English, born in Australia, the UK, Ireland, Canada, USA, New Zealand or South Africa, and
  - b. all of your primary and secondary education was taught and assessed solely in English in Australia, the UK, Ireland, Canada, USA, New Zealand or South Africa.

### OR

2. You achieve the required minimum scores in one of the following English language tests and meet the requirements for currency of **test results** specified in this standard:

**NOTE:** We will only accept test results from one test sitting.

- a. the **IELTS** (academic module) with a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).
- b. the **OET** with a minimum score of B in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).

- c. the **PTE Academic** with a minimum score of 65 in each of the four communicative skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking).
- d. the **TOEFL iBT** with a minimum score in each section of the test as follows:
  - \* 24 for listening
  - \* 24 for reading
  - \* 27 for writing, and
  - \* 23 for speaking.
- e. other English language tests approved by AVBC from time to time and published on the AVBC website with the required minimum scores.

## Standard must be achieved in a single test sitting

The required standard must be achieved in the one test sitting. Should you fail to achieve the standard in a single test sitting, you must re-sit an entire English language test. The AVBC does not permit re-sits of sub-sections of English language tests.

## Currency of test results

Test results will be accepted if they were obtained within the two years before the date you lodge your application.

An English language test result is current for two years. The test must be re-taken after that time. In the case of a candidate continuously living and studying or working in an **approved English-speaking country**, the requirement to re-test may be waived if the applicant can provide sufficient evidence to establish that English skills have been maintained, and that the previous test result satisfies the current standard.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS:

## Definitions

**Approved English-speaking country** means one of the following countries: Australia, the UK, Ireland, Canada, USA, New Zealand or South Africa.

**AVBC** means Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc.

**IELTS (academic module)** means the academic module of the International English Language Testing System.

**NVE** means National Veterinary Examination.

**NVE Eligibility Assessment** means an application for an assessment of your eligibility to undertake the National Veterinary Examination.

**OET** means Occupational English Test.

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

**PTE Academic** means the Pearson Test of English Academic.

**Skills Assessment** means an application for an assessment of your skills and qualifications to determine if they are suitable for the occupation of veterinary science required for migration purposes.

**Test results** means the official results provided by the English language test provider.

**TOEFL iBT** means the Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test.

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