

College of Psychologists of British Columbia

English Language Proficiency Policy

Requirement: English Language Proficiency

Applicability: All applicants for registration are required to provide evidence that demonstrates their proficiency in English.

Bylaw:

43. *General registration requirements*
(1) An applicant for registration in any class of registrants must deliver the following to the registrar:
- (e.1) evidence satisfactory to the registration committee of the applicant’s English language proficiency;*

Principle(s):

Effective communication is essential for the provision of competent, safe and quality psychological services. Language proficiency enhances public protection by ensuring that registrants can communicate effectively with clients and other members of the health-care team. For these reasons the Registration Committee believes that applicants must provide evidence of language proficiency in English.

Decision Criteria:

An applicant may meet the requirement by:

- 1 Providing documentary evidence in the form of an official transcript, indicating that the applicant has completed his or her highest level psychology degree at an English language university; or
- 2 Providing a report, directly from the language testing agency, to the College that the applicant has achieved the minimum scores required by the Registration Committee on a standardized language proficiency test approved by the College. An applicant must meet minimum scores in each area. Test results will be considered valid for two years from the date the test was administered.

Approved Test(s) for Meeting English Language Proficiency Requirement		
Name of Test	Minimum Required Scores	Contact
IELTS (International English Language Testing System – Academic)	Writing: 7 Speaking: 7 Listening: 7 Reading: 7	https://www.ielts.org/

3 Providing documentary evidence sent directly from another psychology regulatory body to the College that they have already been assessed and met an equivalent standard for English language proficiency in their home jurisdiction; or

4 Providing to the Registration Committee other evidence of language proficiency. This could be, for example, evidence that the applicant was registered and practiced in an English practice environment for a minimum of the equivalent of two years full-time, which could be confirmed through proof of registration sent directly from the psychology regulatory body, letters(s) from employer(s) or supervisor(s) etc.

Possible Outcomes:

1 An applicant who can provide acceptable evidence of proficiency will be deemed to have met the language proficiency requirement for registration.

2 An applicant who cannot provide sufficient evidence of proficiency will be notified that he/she cannot be registered until he/she has met this requirement.