

ESLA Placement Criteria

The tables below contain the minimum overall scores and sub-scores that undergraduate applicants need to attain on language proficiency tests to qualify for direct entry to Carleton University or the various levels of its ESLA program. Please note that not all programs allow applicants to register in ESLA courses while being enrolled. Up-to-date information is found on the [Undergraduate Admissions](#) site.

IELTS

	OVERALL	LISTENING	READING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Direct entry	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
1900	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
1500	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
1300	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5

Duolingo (DET) – for Fall 2026 entry or later

	OVERALL	LISTENING	READING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Direct entry	120	105	110	110	110
1900	110	95	100	95	95
1500	95	85	85	80	80
1300	80	75	75	70	65

TOEFL – Until Jan 21, 2026

	OVERALL	LISTENING	READING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Direct entry	86	20	20	22	22
1900	79	18	18	21	22
1500	66	15	15	18	18
1300	51	11	11	16	13

TOEFL – New 6-point CEFR-like scale (as of Jan. 21, 2026)

	OVERALL	LISTENING	READING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Direct entry	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
1900	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
1500	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
1300	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

CAEL - Canadian Academic English Language Assessment

	OVERALL	LISTENING	READING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Direct entry	70	60	60	60	60
1900	60	50	50	50	50
1500	50	40	40	40	40
1300	40	30	30	30	30

Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic

	OVERALL	LISTENING	READING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Direct entry	55	47	47	47	47
1900	47	39	39	39	39
1500	39	31	31	31	31
1300	31	24	24	24	24

Cambridge English Language Test

	OVERALL	LISTENING	READING	SPEAKING	WRITING	USE OF ENGLISH
Direct entry	176	169	169	169	169	169
1900	169	161	161	161	161	161
1500	161	154	154	154	154	154
1300	154	148	148	148	148	148