

Regulations for Pre-sessional English

August 2020-May 2021

1.1 Introduction

These Regulations apply to Pre-sessional English (PSE) courses delivered for Coventry University London by Coventry University Group

The Pre-sessional English course is for non-UK students holding an offer for a degree course at Coventry University London which is conditional only upon achieving the required English language entry level; who need to improve their English language skills to meet the University's English language admissions requirements for postgraduate and undergraduate courses; and/or to cope with the learning demands of a degree at Coventry University London. These requirements also reflect the English language levels required by the Home Office for a Tier 4 visa.

1.2 Pre-sessional English framework

1.2.1 The PSE programme varies in length, from 5 to 15 weeks, depending on the level of English proficiency a student has at enrolment, as demonstrated via a Secure English Language Test (SELT) (see box below). The courses are for students who are about to begin their academic course or research at Coventry University or its subsidiaries.

Entry Requirement for course	Overall SELT entry standard	Minimum component scores	Course
6.0	4.5	4.5	15 week
6.0	5.0	4.5	10 week
6.0	5.5	5.0	5 week
6.5	5.0	4.5	15 week
6.5	5.5	5.0	10 week
6.5	6.0	5.0	5 week

1.3 Admission

1.3.1 To secure a place on a Pre-sessional English course students must have a valid SELT which is listed on the UKVI's 'List of approved tests and providers' and hold a conditional offer of a place at the university.*

1.3.2 The Pre-sessional course that a student may be admitted to is dependent upon the SELT score already obtained and the degree course/programme for which the student has a conditional offer to study. Students need to check these requirements carefully with the International Office.

NB Professional bodies may require a higher standard of English, which will be stipulated in the Course Specifications.

*Non-Tier 4 students may be accepted with equivalent scores on Cambridge Preliminary, FCE or CAE; PTE Academic; TOEFL iBT; or the Coventry University English Test (CUET), or other English Tests designated as acceptable for entry purposes by the International Office, on a case-by-case basis.

Type of course	English language entry standards (SELT) NB <i>Individual degree programme entry requirements may vary</i>	Individual Component scores (SELT)
Academic Foundation or Undergraduate entry level 1 or 2	6.0	5.5
Undergraduate level 3 (Top Up)	6.5	5.5
Undergraduate level 3	6.5	5.5
Postgraduate Taught	6.5	5.5

1.4 Enrolment and registration

1.4.1 General

Students are required to enrol at Coventry University London and register for a PSE course in accordance with the arrangements notified. Course definitive documentation shall specify what the course entails.

1.4.2 Attendance Requirement

- a) It is an expectation of the course that students attend all timetabled sessions. This will be monitored on a continuous basis
- b) If attendance consistently falls below 90% attendance, students may be withdrawn from their course and will not be eligible for a refund, according to the procedure notified.
- c) The University has a legal duty to monitor and record the attendance of students on Tier 4 student visas in line with the compliance responsibilities of its Tier 4 Sponsor licence. It is required to report students to the Home Office who are withdrawn for not meeting its attendance requirements. For students on a Tier 4 visa, withdrawal from their course will lead to the curtailment of their visa.

1.4.3 Withdrawal from Course

- a) It is the student's responsibility to inform Coventry University London of the withdrawal through the procedure notified. Where a student indicates a desire to permanently withdraw (including for reasons of extenuating circumstance) from a PSE course, the date of withdrawal shall be taken as the date on which the appropriate senior member of Registry staff (or nominee) signs, dates and actions the withdrawal confirmation; retrospective withdrawal dates shall not be accepted. If the student wishes to return to the UK and still requires a PSE qualification, he/she will be required to re-enrol for the entire programme at later iterations if appropriate.
- b) Coventry University London reserves the right to require a student to withdraw, where the student has not fully engaged with the course or not complied with their financial commitment to the University. Examples (not exhaustive) of not fully engaging include: repeated non-attendance at teaching sessions and/or not taking part in (formal or informal) assessments and not responding to requests sent by the University to explain such nonattendance.
- c) Under section 1.4.3b, a student may submit an appeal, within two working days of the date of the letter confirming the withdrawal, on the basis of material irregularity or if there is significant new evidence of mitigation against the student's non-engagement. The appeal must be submitted in writing to an appropriate senior member of Registry staff (or nominee). The decision of the appropriate senior member of Registry staff (or nominee) is final (see Coventry University London Academic appeals policy).

- d) The University reserves the right to require a student to withdraw in circumstances where the student is clearly not at the language level presented on their SELT, or other test of English used for PSE entry, upon arrival at the place of study, or upon starting their PSE course, and is therefore unable to cope with the level of the PSE course upon which they have been enrolled; or when a student on a longer PSE course is not able to demonstrate sufficient progress at key points within the course i.e. at the end of a 'block' of teaching on the 15 week course. In these cases the PSE Co-ordinator will present evidence as to why the student is being withdrawn to the appropriate senior member of Registry staff (or nominee). In the case of insufficient language level on arrival, or insufficient progress in language level, the University's decision in these cases is final.
- e) The University expects students to exhibit the highest standards of behaviour whilst undertaking their English Language studies. Students whose behaviour falls below acceptable standards shall be subject to the University's Disciplinary processes as defined in Appendix 7 to the General Regulations.

1.4.4 **Duration of Registration**

- a) The maximum duration of registration will be determined by the length of the PSE course.
- b) In the case of Tier 4 students, the duration of study agreed at the time when a visa was sought must be adhered to. A Tier 4 student can be withdrawn from study at any time should they fail to comply with the terms of their visa and this will be reported to the UKVI by the University, this may result in the 'curtailment' or cancellation of their Tier 4 visa by the UKVI.

1.5 **Progression**

- 1.5.1 Attendance on a Pre-sessional English language course does not automatically guarantee progression to a degree course. To progress from the pre-sessional English course to a degree level course a student must meet the required IELTS equivalent level for either a postgraduate or undergraduate course via the Pre-sessional assessment process.
- 1.5.2 Successful completion of the course is dependent on students achieving the required standard (see 1.3). If the required score is not met, the offer on the degree course may be withdrawn and the University will be required to inform the Home Office that the student has not progressed to the main course.
- 1.5.3 Exceptionally, a student who fails to attain the required IELTS equivalent level for course entry via the Pre-sessional assessment process and is no more than half an IELTS band (equivalent) below the required overall score (see 1.3) may, at the discretion of the Associate Pro Vice Chancellor or nominee, be permitted to progress onto their degree with mandatory in-session English support, subject to the recommendation in the PSE tutor's report. This is on condition that the student has achieved a minimum of 5.5 equivalent/CEFR level B2 in each individual language component, as required under Tier 4 rules. The Associate Pro Vice Chancellor or nominee must set out his/her reasons for this decision and share the decision and reasons with all relevant teams (IO Welfare, Admissions, Tier 4, PSE team). They must include details of the mandatory in-session support that will be provided in a case report, which must be retained on each student's main course admissions file, to be made available for UKVI scrutiny.
- 1.5.4 A student who is not successful in meeting the required level of English will only be permitted to re-enrol on a further PSE course at a later date, having left the

University to improve their level of English, in order to comply with Tier 4 visa regulations. This improvement must be evidenced by submission of a new SELT, must show academic progression as defined by the Home Office and must have been approved by the Head of International Student Support or their nominee.

1.6 Assessment

- 1.6.1 A student shall be deemed to have passed the course on obtaining the required level (see 1.3) in each of the following components of the PSE assessment: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening plus the overall grade derived from these components. The student's progress on the course will be monitored by the tutors via continuous assessment and be recorded in a portfolio of student coursework and assessment papers, which will capture the outcomes of all formative and summative assessments.
- 1.6.2 The tutor will provide a recommendation based on the entire portfolio, including the component grades, as to whether the student has passed, failed or marginally failed. In the instance of a marginal failure, the student may progress on to the main academic course at the discretion of the Associate Pro Vice Chancellor or nominee and with the proviso that in-session English language support is provided.
- 1.6.3 There is no Appeal against the academic judgement of the PSE tutor.
- 1.6.4 A copy of the individual student report shall be given to all students following completion of the course.
- 1.6.5 Any suspected instances of academic misconduct shall be investigated in accordance with the procedure notified. Academic misconduct is defined as any attempt by a student to gain an unfair advantage in an assessment.
- 1.6.6 If a student is found to have attempted to gain an unfair advantage in an assessment, this will be reflected on their individual student report, and a judgement on the severity of the penalty to be applied will be decided by the Associate Pro Vice Chancellor or nominee in liaison with the PSE co-ordinator, informed by the investigation of the academic misconduct (see 1.6.5). This may result in the student not progressing onto their destination degree course.

APPROVED Coventry University London Academic Board – July 2020