



English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Policy

1. Prior to Arrival

Students for whom English is a foreign language are identified at the application form stage and assessed by the Academic Principal during their new student interview. Applicants are asked to supply details of their previous education and school reports as part of the admissions process which may include English language teaching or previous EFL qualifications taken.

If it is identified during the admissions process that a student requires specific EFL tutorials in support of their academic course these are added to their timetable prior to arrival.

International students are required to have a minimum level of competency in English Language to pursue courses offered by Oxford International College. We follow the requirements set out by the United Kingdom Border Agency in this matter.

In general we require an IELTS score of 5.5 or equivalent to accept a student on an A-Level programme. Mathematics A-Level may be started when a student has obtained an IELTS score of 5.0. In some cases, students who fall just below the required IELTS level may be admitted on an EFL programme initially leading to an academic course once the required level is reached.

2. Weekly IELTS Classes

During the first week after arrival, an initial English language assessment of all L2 students (speakers of English as a second or other language) is carried out by the EFL team. This consists of approximately 1 hour written test and ¼ hour spoken English assessment.

Based on the results of their initial assessment, if it is judged that students require additional English Language support (in addition to their timetabled tutorials) they are placed in one of 3 IELTS classes.

These 3 IELTS classes are streamed by level of English and taught for two hours every week. Lessons cover communicative English practice, exam skills and techniques and vocabulary development.

Students are assessed twice a term to review their progress and whether they are in the appropriate group. Students are entered for an IELTS exam or another English language qualification suitable for university entrance at the appropriate time.

3. Timetabled EFL Tutorials

Most international students have specific English language courses which they are following with individual tutors to progress towards GCSE, IGCSE, IELTS or other entrance tests. EFL tutors work individually with students to identify their needs and develop proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking.



4. EFL Support Across the Curriculum

Tutors who are not teaching English are expected to give special attention to subject-specific terminology, checking whether or not basic English language errors will affect exam results. They are encouraged to liaise with the IELTS team and student's individual EFL tutors for support.