

In accordance with the Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies admission policy, Indigenous applicants may be considered for admission on the basis of their life experience. The Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies advocates the admission of Indigenous applicants by individual departments.

Graduate Program Entrance Requirements

The minimum requirements for admission to the Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies are outlined below. Departments and non-departmentalized Faculties may impose additional admission requirements. See [Graduate Programs](#) and [Faculty-Specific Admission Requirements](#).

Admissions to graduate programs are made on a competitive basis. Even though an applicant may satisfy the minimum admission requirements, acceptance into a graduate program is not guaranteed.

In making its admission decisions, the University of Alberta strives to optimize the students' opportunity to succeed academically, while maintaining a high standard in its graduate programs.

Academic Requirements

Applicants for admission must have obtained a University of Alberta baccalaureate degree or an equivalent qualification from another recognized academic institution.

Qualified applicants with a three-year undergraduate degree from a Bologna-compliant or another recognized research-intensive university will be considered for admission in the standard way.

Applicants will not be admissible to a doctoral degree program at the University of Alberta if they have previously obtained a similar or identical degree.

Except in the case of freestanding graduate certificates (see below), the minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) required for admission to a graduate program is 3.0, equivalently, a letter grade B, on the 4-point scale from the University of Alberta, or an equivalent standing. Many graduate programs have higher minimum AGPA requirements. See [Graduate Programs](#) and [Faculty-Specific Admission Requirements](#).

The admission GPA will be calculated on the last 60 units of course weight of graded coursework completed at the time of application, or on the equivalent of the last two years of full-time graded coursework.

In exceptional cases, applicants who do not meet the minimum admission requirements but who have demonstrated significant life experience may be considered for admission. Admission on the basis of life experience requires the recommendation of the department offering the program and is subject to approval by the Dean, GPS.

Certificates: Applicants for admission into freestanding graduate certificates normally will have obtained a University of Alberta baccalaureate degree or an equivalent qualification from another recognized academic institution, for which an official transcript will be required. Admission will not be subject to a minimum GPA calculation unless such a minimum threshold is specified by the program.

Admission to a second freestanding certificate offered by the same department will not require a new application if the application is received within twelve months of the completion of the first certificate.

English Language Requirement

Since English is the primary language of instruction and communication at the University of Alberta (except for Faculté Saint-Jean), proficiency in English is a prerequisite for graduate admission.

All applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency prior to admission either by:

- Possession of a degree or its academic equivalent from an academic institution recognized by the University of Alberta, where the language of instruction is English;
- or
- A satisfactory score on an approved English language examination as described below.

Notwithstanding the above, graduate programs reserve the right to require a further demonstration of English language proficiency.

The Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies recognizes five English language examinations:

- The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL);
- The International English Language Testing System (Academic IELTS);
- The Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) Assessment;
- The Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic);
- Cambridge English C1 Advanced or Cambridge C2 Proficiency (Cambridge).

GPS considers English language examination scores to be valid for two years from the date of the exam.

The GPS minimum acceptable scores are:

- TOEFL: total score of 90 with a score of at least 21 on each of the individual skill areas (internet-based) or equivalent;
- Academic IELTS: 6.5, with at least 6.0 on each test band;
- CAEL: overall 70 with at least 60 on each subtest;
- PTE Academic: 61 with a minimum band score of 60. Applicants who take the Pearson test must request that this University be given access to their score;
- Cambridge: minimum score of 176, with at least 169 on each subscore.

Individual graduate programs may require higher scores. Consult the appropriate departmental information in [Graduate Programs](#) and [Faculty-Specific Admission Requirements](#).

In exceptional circumstances, and on the recommendation of an academic unit, the Dean of GPS may consider an applicant who holds a degree(s) from an institution where English is not the primary language of instruction but who has demonstrated English language proficiency through one or more of the following:

- Successful completion of a subsequent certificate, diploma, or equivalent credential from an academic institution recognized by the University of Alberta, where the language of instruction is English.
- Attainment of a professional certification/designation from a recognized/accredited organization that requires its own demonstration of English language proficiency.
- Demonstrated applied professional experience of a minimum of five (5) years where English is the principal language for spoken, written, and oral communication.

EAP 550

The [English Language School](#) in the Faculty of Education offers EAP 550 ([Academic English for Graduate Admission](#)) which may provide an alternate method of satisfying the GPS minimum acceptable score.

Applicants interested in this course must contact their prospective graduate program to verify language proficiency requirements.

If applicable, departments may consider the following options in utilizing EAP 550 to satisfy the English language requirement for an application for admission:

- the applicant successfully complete EAP 550 with a result of CR before applying to a graduate program, OR
- the applicant be conditionally admitted to a graduate program subject to the successful completion of EAP 550 **prior to the start date of the graduate program**

In no case will the applicant be registered in GPS until the EAP 550 course has been successfully completed.

Graduate Admission

The decision to admit an applicant to a graduate program is made by that program.

Official Admission Letters are issued by the Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies. Offers of admission are only valid for the term and program specified on the admission letter.