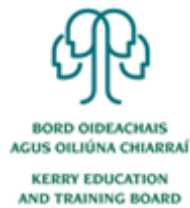


# Kerry ETB

## Further Education and Training



# English Language Requirements Policy

## For

# Further Education and Training courses

<b>Authors:</b>	Kerry ETB QA Unit / FET Management
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## **1. Purpose and Scope:**

Teaching, learning and assessment in Kerry ETB is through the medium of English. All applicants need to show a level of competence in the English language.

All applicants whose first language is not English, meeting the English language criteria is imperative to engage in Further Education and Training (FET) programmes offered by Kerry ETB. This policy outlines the specific requirements governing English language proficiency.

This policy applies to all engaged or seeking to engage in FET teaching, learning and assessment activities in Kerry ETB who do not speak English as their first language. This includes applicants for all courses in Kerry ETB FET Centres, Youthreach and Kerry College Campuses.

## **2. Objectives:**

This policy outlines the English language requirements for applicants to ensure they meet the necessary proficiency level according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) to participate in learning and assessment activities within Kerry ETB.

Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate the required proficiency level according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) that corresponds to the level of the course for which they have applied.

Applicants are exempt from the Kerry ETB English proficiency test if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Have completed their previous education through the medium of English at a level below or equal to the level they are accessing. For example, to access a Level 4 course, applicants should have completed a Level 3 course (achieving a Major Award) through the medium of English.
- Provide evidence of English language proficiency through an approved English proficiency test conducted by recognised providers, such as IELTS, Duolingo or an equivalent test that includes I.D. verification as part of their testing process.

Applicants who cannot demonstrate the necessary proficiency level as per the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) are obligated to take the Kerry ETB English Proficiency Test. Kerry ETB reserves the right to request an applicant to take the Kerry ETB English Language Proficiency Test.

## Definitions of Entry Levels

Applicants must be able to demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The English language requirements for entry to courses at NFQ levels 3, 4, 5 and 6 are outlined below and are summarised in Figure 1. Please note that where the English language requirements specified by the certifying body exceed those of Kerry ETB, the certifying body's requirements will be applied.

### For entry to NFQ Level 3 courses:

An applicant must demonstrate A2 level on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) or equivalent. For equivalence see Appendix One Table of Equivalence.

### For entry to NFQ Level 4 courses:

An applicant must demonstrate B1 level on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) or equivalent. For equivalence see Appendix One Table of Equivalence.

### For entry to NFQ Level 5 courses:

An applicant must demonstrate B2 level on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) or equivalent. For equivalence see Appendix One Table of Equivalence.

### For entry to NFQ Level 6 courses:

B2 level on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) or equivalent. For equivalence see Appendix One Table of Equivalence.

**Figure 1: Summary of English Language Levels Required for NFQ Level 3 – 6 courses**

English Language Entry Level (CEFR)	Course Level
A2	NFQ Level 3
B1	NFQ Level 4
B2	NFQ Level 5
B2	NFQ Level 6

## 3. Roles and Responsibilities:

### 3.1 Applicant

Applicants who do not speak English as their first language must demonstrate capabilities in English in line with the entry requirements for the particular NFQ level (see Section 3 Definitions).

### 3.2 Kerry College Admissions Office

Kerry College Admissions Office must provide information to applicants on the English language requirements for all programmes and must gain evidence of the applicant's capability in English.

The Kerry College Admissions Unit will schedule English Language Proficiency test dates for applicants who are obliged to take the Kerry ETB English Proficiency Test.

Kerry College Admissions Office can refer any applicant for an English language proficiency test. The Kerry College Admissions Office will only process applications once all entry requirements are met including English Language Proficiency.

### **3.3 Kerry ETB Youthreach Co-ordinator/ Kerry ETB FET Centre Manager**

All centres/ campuses delivering FET programmes for Kerry ETB must ensure that no applicant is enrolled on a course unless they have the English language skills to participate fully in all learning and assessment activities. The FET Centre Manager/ Youthreach Co-ordinator will schedule English Language Proficiency test dates for applicants who are obliged to take the Kerry ETB English Proficiency Test.

#### **4. Implementation and Review:**

This is for immediate implementation and will be reviewed within 3 years or sooner as required.

#### **5. Approval:**

This is recommended by the FET Management Team and approved by the Kerry Education and Training Board.

<b>Document:</b>	English Language Proficiency Policy FINAL V2
<b>Description:</b>	This document outlines the English language requirements for those who do not speak English as their first language.
<b>Developer:</b>	FET Management
<b>Approval Channel</b>	Kerry ETB FET Quality Council
<b>Date Agreed by FET Management:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
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<b>Document Approval and Review</b>		
<b>Forum</b>	<b>Procedure Version No.</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
Kerry ETB FET Quality Council	Version 2	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024

## **Glossary**

### **Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)**

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is an international standard for describing language ability. It describes language ability on a six-point scale, from A1 for beginners, up to C2 for those who have mastered a language.

### **ESOL**

ESOL is a term frequently used in Adult, Further Education and Training and stands for English for Speakers of Other Languages.

### **IELTS (IELTS)**

IELTS (IELTS) is the International English Language Testing System. It measures ability to communicate in English across all four language skills - listening, reading, writing and speaking - for people who intend to study or work where English is the language of communication.