

## **Proving English proficiency as part of the visa process**

As part of the Citizenship/Naturalisation process, you will need to prove you are proficient in English language. There are several ways to do this, listed below:  
(information taken from - [Guide AN: Naturalisation Booklet](#) )

This information is also relevant for Limited Leave to Enter and Indefinite Leave to Remain applications.

### **Knowledge of Language requirement**

You also need to have sufficient speaking and listening knowledge of English, Welsh or Scottish Gaelic. This is a separate requirement to the Life in the UK requirement, and you must meet both requirements.

- a Home Office approved qualification in English at B1 CEFR or higher, from the Secure English Language Test list. Only English language qualifications on this list will be accepted as evidence that you have met the requirement to hold a B1 level English qualification. You must ensure that you state the test number in your application. For tests taken on or after 6 April 2015, you do not need to supply any physical evidence of the English language test. You must provide the unique reference number (URN) on your application form. The test must be taken at a Home Office approved test centre. Test results are only valid for two years from the date the test is taken. Once the validity of your test expires after two years, the qualification cannot be relied upon to support your application to naturalise. If you successfully made an application for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) on the basis of a B1 level qualification you would meet the English language requirement for naturalisation and do not have to pass another test. This includes where you satisfied the requirement for ILR because you had already met the B1 level qualification for entry clearance or leave to remain.



- a UK degree certificate: You will not be required to show a formal speaking and listening qualification if you have a UK academic qualification which is equivalent to a UK Bachelor's or Master's degree or PHD, which was taught in English. If you have a UK degree you must provide your degree certificate. Please note that you still need to pass the Life in the UK test to demonstrate your knowledge of life in the UK.
- A degree certificate that was taught or researched in a majority English speaking country and:
  - an Academic Qualification Level Statement (AQUALS) from Ecctis (formerly UK NARIC) confirming the qualification is equivalent to a UK qualification 19
  - A degree certificate that was taught or researched in a non-majority English speaking country and both of the following:
  - an Academic Qualification Level Statement (AQUALS) from Ecctis (formerly UK NARIC) confirming the qualification is equivalent to a UK qualification
  - an English Language Proficiency Statement (ELPS) from Ecctis (formerly UK NARIC) showing that your degree was taught in English
- A postgraduate diploma, or a graduate diploma from a UK university. Postgraduate diplomas are usually abbreviated as PGDip, PG Dip, PgD, PgDip. Examples would be:
  - postgraduate diploma in legal practice
  - graduate diploma in law
  - postgraduate diploma in education
  - postgraduate diploma in teaching

A postgraduate diploma, or graduate diploma from a university outside the UK, must have Ecctis (formerly UK NARIC <https://www.ecctis.com/>) confirmation showing it is comparable to a UK degree, and was taught in English. Professional diplomas from either inside or outside the UK, which do not require an undergraduate degree as an entry requirement, (such as accountancy, marketing, hotel management, cosmetic science and food hygiene) cannot be accepted.



- Your passport showing that you are a national of a country on the majority English speaking country list: If you are a national of a majority English speaking country, you will not be required to show a formal speaking and listening qualification. Nationals of majority English speaking countries are considered automatically to meet the English language component of the Knowledge of language and life in the UK requirement. You will still be required to pass the Life in the UK test to demonstrate your knowledge of life in the UK.

Nationals of the following countries are accepted as majority English speakers for naturalisation purposes: Antigua and Barbuda Ireland Australia Jamaica The Bahamas Malta Barbados New Zealand Belize St Kitts and Nevis Canada St Lucia Dominica St Vincent and the Grenadines Grenada Trinidad and Tobago Guyana The United States of America

Further details on acceptable evidence can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/english-language>

## **If you have a degree taught outside the UK**

If your degree was taught outside of the UK, you can use the [Visas and Nationality Services \(ecctis.com\)](https://ecctis.com) service as evidence to prove you have proficiency in English language. The current costs for this service are listed below.

Prices	
<b>Prices</b>	
Visas and Nationality Service ( <b>English proficiency</b> )	£140.00 + VAT*
Visas and Nationality Service ( <b>PhD verification</b> )	£210.00 + VAT*
Visas and Nationality Service ( <b>PhD verification with English proficiency</b> )	£210.00 + VAT*
Visas and Nationality Service ( <b>High Potential Individual</b> )	£210.00 + VAT*
Visas and Nationality Service ( <b>High Potential Individual with English proficiency</b> )	£210.00 + VAT*

\*VAT is payable where applicable

The time of return for using this service is 10 working days but they offer a 24 or 48 hour service.

