

OFFICIAL (OPEN)

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All Registered Allied Health Professionals
Allied Health Directors/Chairpersons
Chief Executive Officers of Therapy Hubs
HR Directors/Managers in Healthcare Institutions

UPDATE TO AHPC'S TOEFL iBT ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FROM 1 AUGUST 2026

This circular informs all registered allied health professionals (“AHPs”), healthcare institutions, Allied Health Directors/Chairpersons, CEOs of Therapy Hubs and their HR departments of updates to the Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based (“TOEFL iBT”) English Language Proficiency (“ELP”) requirements for Diagnostic Radiography (“DR”), Occupational Therapy (“OT”), Physiotherapy (“PT”), Radiation Therapy (“RT”) and Speech-Language Therapy (“SLT”) registrants seeking registration with the Allied Health Professions Council (“AHPC”).

BACKGROUND

2 The TOEFL iBT has undergone a redesign since 21 January 2026, introducing a new 1.0 – 6.0 band scoring system that replaces the traditional 0 – 120 scale. The new scale is directly aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), making scores more intuitive to interpret and easier to compare with other language qualifications. During the transition period from 2026 to 2028, score reports will display both scoring systems for comparison. In view of these changes to TOEFL iBT scoring, it is essential that AHPC keeps pace with these developments and updates its ELP requirements accordingly.

APPLICABILITY

3 Registration applicants whose basic professional qualifications are not from Singapore, Australia, Canada (except Quebec), New Zealand, Republic of Ireland,

South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, are required to be proficient in English based on AHPC's criteria for each registered profession. The accepted ELP tests are:

- i. the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) UK;
- ii. the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) USA; and
- iii. the Occupational English Test (OET) Australia (test is profession-specific).

UPDATED TOEFL iBT ELP REQUIREMENTS

4 The updated TOEFL iBT ELP requirements, to take effect from 1 August 2026, are as follows:

Profession Group	Updated TOEFL iBT Requirement (New 1–6 Scale)
DR/RT	Overall $\geq$ 4.0; minimum of 4.0 in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)
OT	Overall $\geq$ 5.0; minimum of 5.0 in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)
PT	Overall $\geq$ 5.0; minimum of 5.0 in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)
SLT	Overall $\geq$ 5.5; minimum of 5.0 in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)

5 For ease of reference, the full consolidated ELP requirements across all accepted tests are set out below:

Accepted ELP Test	Diagnostic Radiography & Radiation Therapy	Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy	Speech-Language Therapy
IELTS (Academic Module)	At least 6.0 for ALL components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)	At least 7.0 for ALL components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)	Overall 7.5 and no less than 7.0 for ALL components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)
TOEFL iBT (New 1 – 6 Scale) (wef 1 August 2026)	Overall $\geq$ 4.0; minimum of 4.0 in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)	Overall $\geq$ 5.0; minimum of 5.0 in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)	Overall $\geq$ 5.5; minimum of 5.0 in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)
OET	Grade B and above	Grade B and above (For Physiotherapy, computer-based testing is also accepted.)	Grade B (400) in three components and B (350) in any one component

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

6 Please note that applicants must pass all test components within a single examination sitting. AHPC will not accept results combined from different examination sittings. Only test results obtained within two years before the AHPC registration application date will be considered valid. While applicants may attempt the tests as many times as needed to meet the requirements, each attempt must achieve the minimum scores in all components in that single sitting.

ENQUIRIES

7 For enquiries, please write to AHPC@spb.gov.sg.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suraya Talip'.

MS. SURAYA TALIP
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
for PRESIDENT,
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL