

**From:** [Dean of Grad Ed & Postdoc Affrs](#)  
**To:** [Dean of Grad Ed & Postdoc Affrs](#)  
**Subject:** Policy Update: TA Eligibility Criteria for English Language Certification  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 10:02:38 AM

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TO: GRADUATE DEPARTMENT AND GROUP CHAIRS  
GRADUATE COORDINATORS

FR: JAMES ANTONY, Dean  
Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs

SUBJ: Policy Update: TA Eligibility Criteria for English Language Certification

Per policy, international students who are nonnative speakers of English must be certified as having requisite language skills before they can serve as teaching assistants. To demonstrate the language skills necessary for teaching, the Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs requires that a graduate student either pass the English Language Certification Exam (ELCE) administered by the Teaching + Learning Commons or meet the criteria for an exemption from the ELCE (i.e., through a qualifying TOEFL speaking subscore).

Following an analysis and consultation with those departments that historically have had the greatest number of international students who are nonnative speakers of English, the Dean of Graduate Education has implemented a revision to the policy for the English Language Certification Exam (ELCE) exemption threshold. Effective Fall 2022, students may now demonstrate English language proficiency through a minimum TOEFL speaking subscore of 26, versus the previous threshold of a TOEFL speaking subscore of 28. This change to our scoring threshold will better align us with the policies at several other UC campuses.

**English Language Proficiency Certification to Serve as Teaching Assistant Requirement:**

- Students may now be certified on the basis of having a TOEFL iBT speaking subscore of 26-30 or IELTS speaking subscore of 8-9 or PTE speaking subscore of 84-90.
- Students with a TOEFL iBT speaking subscores of 23-25 or IELTS speaking subscore of 7-7.5 or PTE speaking subscore of 66-83 are required to take the [English Language Certification Exam \(ELCE\)](#) (administered by the UCSD Teaching + Learning Commons).

To view the full policy, please visit:

<https://grad.ucsd.edu/financial/employment/ases/international-tas.html>

For further details on the ELCE, please visit:

<https://engagedteaching.ucsd.edu/educators/grad-students/elpii/language-proficiency.html>

**For questions about resources that support international graduate students and English Language Certification Exam (ELCE) related questions, please contact [engagedteaching@ucsd.edu](mailto:engagedteaching@ucsd.edu).**

For language proficiency employment eligibility questions, please submit a ticket to FSU via [Services & Support](#). For employment exception requests, please refer to the guidelines outlined here: [Exceptions to Policy](#).

To better support hiring units in validating the language proficiency for international applicants, the IA System will now include TOEFL and IELTS speaking subscores for students, when available.

