

Criteria for Exemptions from ESL courses

The criteria for exemptions from ESL courses are as follows:

1. A minimum TOEFL score of 79 (home edition of TOEFL is NOT accepted), or
2. A minimum IELTS score of 6.0, or
3. A minimum Duolingo score of 100, or
4. Completed 6 credits with a grade of “C” or above (or equivalent) of college-level English courses from universities in English-speaking countries, or
5. Graduated from a high school in an English-speaking country.

If students meet one of the above criteria, they are allowed to be exempted from the following ESL courses: ESL 0200, ESL 0203, ESL 0205, ESL 0303, ESL 0305, ESL 0403 and ESL 0405. For the exemption, please submit a copy of the relevant official score report(s) or transcript(s) (including full name and photo) to Ms. Yanqun Guan, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, in person (GEH A313) or via email (guanyanqun@wku.edu.cn). Please kindly note that any falsified reports or transcripts will be considered a Level 4 violation of academic integrity, which may lead to expulsion from the school.

For students who do not meet the criteria mentioned above but completed 2-year college study in accredited universities from English-speaking countries and maintain good academic standing, the credential for granting the exemption will be evaluated by the Executive Director of the School of English Studies. In this case, please contact Ms. Ruiying Dong (dongruiying@wku.edu.cn), Assistant to the English Department, for further processing.

Students who do not have satisfactory scores of TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo are required to take all the ESL courses in the first academic year at WKU. In order to be exempted from one or more ESL courses for a whole semester, a student must submit the ESL exemption request along with a score report of TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs by the first day of the fall or spring semester in the freshman year. Students who do not successfully complete all required ESL courses in the freshman year are NOT eligible for ESL course waiver.