



Irish College of  
Ophthalmologists  
**Eye Doctors of Ireland**  
Protecting your Vision

# Irish College of Ophthalmologists

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The ability to communicate clearly with patients and colleagues is a key requirement for all healthcare professionals. In the case of doctors providing clinical care to members of the public, the ability to communicate is particularly important. Proficiency in the English language is therefore a core competency for all NCHDs working in the Irish public health service. The HSE requires that as part of the application process for training positions on specialist training programmes, that all applicants are required to demonstrate their competency in the English Language in line with HSE specifications.

In this context, all applicants who were not registered by the Medical Council in any of the divisions of the Register of Medical Practitioners **prior to 9th July 2012** must provide the following:

- IELTS (International English Language Testing System Academic Test) Certificate demonstrating a overall band score of 7.0 and a minimum of 6.5 in each of the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking – on the academic text. The test must be undertaken no more than two years prior to the date of it being submitted to the Irish College of Ophthalmologists. Whilst you may sit the above test as often as you like, the above scores must have been achieved at only one sitting of the IELTS test. Results from more than one test sitting cannot be amalgamated. Any cost incurred in relation to the IELTS exam will be borne by the applicant. Information on IELTS is available at [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org);
- University of Cambridge, ESOL Examinations – Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) is no longer accepted.

### Exemptions

An exemption from formally demonstrating your English Language Competency in the above manner is available to the following cohort of applicants:

1. Applicants who completed, in its entirety, their medical degree in the following countries – Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and United States – and who provide documentary evidence of same;

### OR

2. Applicants who were registered with the Medical Council in Ireland prior to 9th July 2012 and provide documentary evidence of same;

### OR

3. Applicants who registered with the Medical Council in Ireland on or after the 9th July 2012 and who can provide documentary evidence of having worked as a full time clinical NCHD in the Irish public health service for a minimum period of 6 months and have demonstrated the required English Language competencies during the course of their employment. Applicants must submit a completed Declaration of English Language Competencies as documentary evidence for this exemption;

### OR

4. Applicants who have undertaken and successfully passed all parts of the Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and provide documentary evidence of same.

All applicants are required at the time of application to demonstrate to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland their English language competency either by means of submitting the required IELTS Certificate / University of Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English documentation or by declaring themselves exempt under one of the above parameters and providing the required documentary evidence of same.