



## Graduate School Announcement, Khon Kaen University

(No. 44/2025)

### On English Proficiency Test Criteria for Doctoral Students

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To ensure the smooth process of student admissions to the doctoral program and the verification of doctoral graduates' qualifications, guidelines have been established to achieve maximum efficiency. By virtue of Section 40 of Khon Kaen University Act B.E. 2558 and the Regulations of Khon Kaen University on Graduate Education Level, B.E. 2566, Article 34.6 and Article 56.3.1, along with the approval of Committee Board of Graduate School Meeting at the 3/2025 on March 6, 2025. Therefore, the following standard criteria for assessing English proficiency for doctoral students are hereby issued.

Clause 1 This announcement shall be called “Graduate School Announcement (No. 44/2025) on English Proficiency Test Criteria for Doctoral Students”

Clause 2 This announcement shall come into effect as from the day of its issuance.

Clause 3 The previous Graduate School Announcement, Khon Kaen University No. 77/2023 on English Proficiency Test Criteria for Doctoral Students is no longer applied.

Clause 4 To meet the admission criteria for doctoral level, applicants are to complete the one of English proficiency test results as follows:

4.1 English proficiency test result is to be issued by the following language testing centers and must not exceed 2 years from the testing date:

TOEFL (Paper Based)	the minimum score of 400 or
TOEFL (Internet Based)	the minimum score of 32 or
TOEFL (Institutional Testing Program)	the minimum score of 400 or
IELTS (Academic Module)	the minimum score of 4.0 or
TU-GET (Max. 1000 Points)	the minimum score of 400 or
CU-TEP (Max. 120 Points)	the minimum score of 45

4.2 Khon Kaen University Academic English Language Test (KKU – AELT) result provided by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The result must not exceed 2 years from the testing date and the result must be as follows:

4.2.1 In case of submitting the result of 5-band system:

Reading skill      Level 2 or above, and

Writing skill      Level 2 or above

4.2.2 In case submitting the result of 7-band system:

Overall score      Level 2 or above

4.3 If the test result is below the defined level in No. 4.2, applicants can enroll in training course(s) provided by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Applicants can enroll only the skills that are lower than the admission required score criteria. After that submit the result in No. 4.2 with the result of the training course which does not exceed 2 years from the passing date. The details of course enrollment are as follows:

Skill below the criteria	Result (Band)	Topic to enroll
Reading skill	1	Academic Reading for Doctoral Students I
Writing skill	1	Academic Writing for Doctoral Students I

4.4 EnglishScore result provided by Graduate School, Khon Kaen University. The result must not exceed 2 years from the testing date and the result must be as follows:

Core skills test      the minimum score of 200, and

Writing test      the minimum score of 200

Clause 5 Applicants are to submit the result according to No. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, or 4.4 to the Graduate School before the first day of their enrolled semester.

Clause 6 To meet the graduation criteria for doctoral students, students are to complete the one of English proficiency test results as follows:

6.1 English proficiency test result is to be issued by the following language testing centers and must not exceed 2 years from the testing date:

TOEFL (Paper Based)      the minimum score of 543 or

TOEFL (Internet Based)      the minimum score of 72 or

TOEFL (Institutional Testing Program)      the minimum score of 543 or

IELTS (Academic Module)      the minimum score of 5.5 or

TU-GET (Max. 1000 Points)      the minimum score of 550 or

CU-TEP (Max. 120 Points)

the minimum score of 70

6.2 Khon Kaen University Academic English Language Test (KKU – AELT) result provided by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The result must not exceed 2 years from the testing date and the result must be as follows:

6.2.1 In case of submitting the result of 5-band system:

Reading skill      Level 4 or above, and

Writing skill      Level 4 or above

6.2.2 In case of submitting the result of 7-band system:

Overall score      Level 5 or above

6.3 If the test result is below the defined level in No. 6.2, students can enroll in training course(s) provided by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Students can enroll only the skills that are lower than the required score criteria and submit the result in No. 6.2 with the result of the training course which does not exceed 2 years from the passing date. The details of course enrollment are as follows:

6.3.1 In case of submitting the result of 5-band system:

<b>Skill below the criteria</b>	<b>Result (Band)</b>	<b>Topic to enroll</b>
Reading skill	1 - 2	Academic Reading for Doctoral Students I and Academic Reading for Doctoral Students II
	3	Academic Reading for Doctoral Students II
Writing skill	1 - 2	Academic Writing for Doctoral Students I and Academic Writing for Doctoral Students II
	3	Academic Writing for Doctoral Students II

6.3.2 In case of submitting the result of 7-band system:

Skill below the criteria	Result (Band)	Topic to enroll
Reading	1 - 3	Academic Reading for Doctoral Students I and Academic Reading for Doctoral Students II
	4	Academic Reading for Doctoral Students II
Writing	1 - 3	Academic Writing for Doctoral Students I and Academic Writing for Doctoral Students II
	4	Academic Writing for Doctoral Students II

Clause 7 Doctoral students must submit documentation of their English language test scores or assessment results, according to criteria outlined in clauses 6.1, 6.2, or 6.3, prior to submitting a request to the Graduate School for the doctoral dissertation examination. This submission is required for the Graduate School to publish a list of doctoral students who have met the English language proficiency assessment criteria and to inform relevant parties accordingly.

Clause 8 In the case applicants or students holding nationality from a country where English is the primary language, including Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, The British Overseas Territories, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Malta, New Zealand, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, The United Kingdom, and The United States of America, they shall be exempt from submitting English language test scores or assessment results, both under the admission criteria specified in Clause 4 and the doctoral graduation requirements specified in Clause 6.

Clause 9 The following applicants or students shall be exempt from submitting English language test scores or assessment results for doctoral program admission as specified in Clause 4. However, once admitted as graduate students at Khon Kaen University, they must submit English proficiency results that meet the Graduate School's requirements before applying for the doctoral dissertation examination, in according with the doctoral graduation requirements specified in Clause 6.

9.1 In the case of applicants or students who have completed their studies in the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, The British Overseas Territories, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Malta, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, The United Kingdom and The United States of America

9.2 In the case of applicants or students who have completed an international program (English language) or a program with official documentation, recognized by the Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC), confirming that English was the primary medium of instruction throughout the bachelor's and/or master's degree level

9.3 In the case of applicants or students who have completed their studies in a country where English is the official language.

Clause 10 In cases not specified in Clause 8 and Clause 9, or those who have graduated from an institution where the program is conducted in English and have official documentation demonstrating sufficient English proficiency, the Committee Board of Graduate School shall have the discretion to evaluate and consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

Clause 11 The Dean of the Graduate School shall be responsible for the enforcement of this announcement. In cases where principles or guidelines are not specified herein, or in the event of any issues regarding the implementation of this announcement, the Dean of the Graduate School shall have the authority to make a final decision, which shall be deemed conclusive.

Announced on March 10, 2025

(Signed)

Professor Kiatichai Faksri  
Dean of Graduate School