

PREPARATION FOR UNIVERSITY 2026 2027

The English Language Preparation for University Programmes cater specifically for the language needs of students who intend to study for an undergraduate, study abroad or postgraduate degree at the University of Limerick. They are aimed at students who have reached the academic entry requirements for their chosen course but need to improve their level to meet the English language entry requirements for their chosen study pathway at UL. They are suitable for students who have received a conditional offer from the University of Limerick. Students should be aware of the minimum English language requirements for the study programme of their choice.

These courses are open to all students with an offer to study at a third level institution in Ireland. They offer students a pathway onto their chosen degree studies and familiarize them with being a student at an English-speaking academic institution.

Start Date	Finish Date	Hours per week ¹	No. of weeks	Minimum IELTS starting level ²	IELTS equivalent of minimum finishing level	Fees ³	Last date to apply
26 Jan 2026	15 May 2026	20	15	5.0 ⁴	6.5	€5,700	17 Dec 25
06 Jul 2026	28 Aug 2026	28	8	5.5 ⁵	6.5	€3,000	03 Jun 26
27 Jul 2026	28 Aug 2026	28	5	6.0 ⁶	6.5	€1,900	24 Jun 26
07 Sep 2026	14 May 2027	20 20	15 15	4.5 ⁷	6.5	€9,400	07 Aug 26

1. An hour equals an academic hour, i.e. 50 minutes.
2. Students should be aware of the minimum English language requirements for entry into the UL study programme of their choice.
3. An additional administration fee of €50 applies to all courses.
4. The minimum entry requirement for this course is an IELTS score of 5.0 with no less than 4.5 in any skill.
5. The minimum entry requirement for this course is an IELTS score of 5.5 with no less than 5.0 in any skill.
6. The minimum entry requirement for this course is an IELTS score of 6.0 with no less than 5.5 in any skill.
7. The minimum entry requirement for this course is an IELTS score of 4.5 with no less than 4.0 in any skill.

The Language Centre is also closed on all Irish public holidays, for a full list of these public holidays log on to www.ul.ie/languagecentre.

Course Content

The courses will consist of modules on:

- Integrated English Language Skills;
- Academic Reading;
- Academic Writing;
- Academic Listening;
- Academic Speaking;
- Academic vocabulary and grammatical structures.

During the course, students will develop their academic and language skills to prepare for third level study in Ireland. They will also gain an understanding of the expectations in the Irish Higher Education system.

Teachers will use a range of tools to deliver the course in an interactive and meaningful way. There will be a range of activities and tasks with teachers ensuring that students have every opportunity for learning to take place. This will include the use of synchronous lectures/classes; clear language tasks; cultural sessions; self-study and group work; self-reflection; blogs; quizzes; discussions; and a portfolio of work.

University of Limerick Language Centre, V94 T9PX, Ireland **T:** +353 (0) 61 233237 **E:** languagecentre@ul.ie
Lárionad na dTeangacha Ollscoil Luimnigh, V94 T9PX, Éire **Web:** www.ul.ie/languagecentre

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Course Outcomes

It is expected that by the end of the course students will have:

- developed their communication skills;
- reached the English language requirements to enter a degree programme at the University of Limerick;
- developed the language and study skills needed for university course work, whether for an undergraduate or postgraduate degree;
- have a greater knowledge of how to learn independently;
- heightened awareness of university life.

Progression to Programmes at the University of Limerick

Students who pass the English Language Preparation for University Programmes will have met the English language requirements for entry onto their chosen course of study (these requirements may vary). For those students it will not be necessary to take an external English language test at the end of their course. Before starting the course, students should check that their academic qualifications will allow them to enter their chosen pathway at the University of Limerick.

Entry Requirements

To gain entry to the English Language Preparation for University Programmes students must provide evidence of their English language level in the form of a recent IELTS band score or equivalent. The band score required depends on the course length the student is applying for. See minimum entry requirements for each course above.

Assessment

Assessment will be continuous, i.e., there will be several assessments during the course rather than one final examination. Students may also need to sit an external English exam during the course. Students are expected to attend all classes. Failure to attend may affect your final grade.

How to apply

Students should send a completed copy of the application form along with proof of their English language level to languagecentre@ul.ie. A member of staff will be in contact to process your application.

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