

ENTRY AND EXIT REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

All speakers of English as a Second Language* must demonstrate competence in the English language, first for admission (see Entry requirements) and then for graduation (see Exit requirements). N.B: these are two different requirements.

**At SAIS, a speaker of English as a First Language is a person who meets at least TWO of the following criteria:*

1. *English is the main language of communication between you and one of your caregivers*
2. *English is an official language in the community where you grew up (before high school)*
3. *English is the language of instruction in the high school you attended*

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be admitted, all speakers of English as a Second Language must submit the result of one of the following tests: **TOEFL, IELTS, CPE**.

Students who have completed a full undergraduate degree program in English, in an English-speaking country, are exempt from this rule.

Tests minimum scores (cannot be more than two years old):

TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language (http://www.toefl.org/) minimum score is 100 (Internet-based); 250 (computer-based); 600 (paper-based); SAIS Bologna TOEFL code is 9729
IELTS	International English Language Testing System (http://www.ielts.org/): minimum score is 7 on the Academic Test
Cambridge	C1 score of 185 or higher OR C2 Proficiency (http://www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/cpe/index.html)

Exams should be taken early enough so that scores arrive in time for the application deadline. Those who are unable to submit their scores in time should contact the Admissions Office (sais.eu.admissions@jhu.edu). They should be aware that preference will be given to candidates who have fulfilled the language requirement in time for admission decisions.

PRE-TERM ENGLISH COURSES

Two Preterm English courses are offered in July and August 2024. The Online Preterm English Reading and Writing course runs from 8 July-02 August, while the Preterm English Listening and Speaking course (on campus) run from 19 August-13 September. Both courses have a duration of 40 hours. Students participating in the Online English Reading and Writing course are expected to complete two hours of study per day across the four weeks. Students attending the on-campus Listening and Speaking course receive two hours of classroom instruction per day (the lessons are scheduled to be held in the mornings, allowing students to take a second preterm course if they so wish). These courses are designed to i) help speakers of English as a Second Language achieve the academic level necessary to perform well in non-language courses during the year; and ii) prepare speakers of English as a Second Language for the SAIS English Proficiency Exam (see Exit Requirements).

Applicants who are speakers of English as a Second Language will be **required** to take this course during Pre-term if their performance in the TOEFL or IELTS exams falls within these scores:

- TOEFL

- Overall TOEFL score between 100 and 104; or
- Overall TOEFL score between 105-109 with a sub-score lower than 25 on either the Writing or Speaking sections
- IELTS
 - Overall IELTS score of 7 or above with a sub-score lower than 7 on either the Writing or Speaking sections
- Cambridge
 - C1 sub-score below 185

Regardless of the English test scores submitted with a candidate's application, some speakers of English as a Second Language may be required to take Intensive English during Pre-term (based on the admissions interview or other evaluations).

Any student required to take this course during Pre-Term will find that information indicated in their letter of admission.

WELCOME WEEK: MANDATORY ENGLISH EXAM

All speakers of English as a Second Language are required to take the diagnostic English Proficiency Exam (Reading and Writing Portions) during Orientation, at the beginning of the fall semester.

All speakers of English as a Second Language must take the written portion of the English proficiency exam during Orientation. Please refer to the academic calendar hosted on the BC Web for the exact date of the exam. Students who do not reach the Superior level ([ACTFL scale](#)) in the Writing portion of the Proficiency exam will be required to take either the Advanced English course or the English Writing Workshop. The Listening and Speaking Portions of the English Proficiency Exam may be taken in the fall session or in the Jan/Feb or May sessions.

Students who are bi-lingual in English and another language may request an exemption (form available on the BC Web) before the date of the English Proficiency Exam in Orientation. Exemption requests will be evaluated by the SAIS Europe English language program coordinator. If an exemption is granted, MA and MAIA students must then take another language proficiency exam during their studies at SAIS.

ENGLISH COURSES OFFERED TO NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR*

The **Advanced English** course consists of three 90-minute classroom sessions per week plus tutorials. This comprehensive course prepares students for the SAIS English Proficiency Exam and coursework at SAIS. It enhances academic writing and reading skills; listening comprehension of lectures and debates; and presentational and argumentative skills. Students in Advanced English cannot enroll in another language course. N.B.: successfully completing two semesters of Advanced English fulfils the language requirement for the One-Year Bologna Center Diploma.

The **English Writing Workshop** consists of two 90-minute classroom sessions per week. It is designed to help students to pass the English Proficiency Exam and perfect writing skills for coursework at SAIS. Students enrolled in the English Writing Workshop may also enroll in another language course.

* Speakers of English as a Second Language who have successfully passed the English Proficiency Exam (Reading and Writing) and yet wish to polish their academic writing skills should refer to the [SAIS Europe Writing Center page](#)

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

All speakers of English as a Second Language must take the diagnostic English Proficiency Exam during the

orientation period at the start of the academic year. Those who do not pass the exam must take Advanced-level English courses until they pass proficiency or fulfil the course requirement for their particular degree (see below).

MAIR: All speakers of English as a Second Language must take the diagnostic English Proficiency Exam during the orientation period at the start of the academic year. Those who do not pass the exam must take Advanced-level courses until they pass proficiency in English or until they successfully complete the Advanced-High II level (equivalent to SAIS Europe Writing Workshop II)

M.A.G.R.: All speakers of English as a Second Language must pass the English Proficiency Exam or pass two semesters of Advanced-level English in order to graduate.

M.A.I.A.: Those students who apply for the M.A.I.A. program during their first semester at SAIS Bologna must pass all four sections of the SAIS English Proficiency Exam prior to admission to the M.A.I.A., i.e. by January. Students from one of our partner institutions who enter SAIS as second year students must pass all four sections of the English Proficiency Exam by the end of their year in Bologna, i.e. May.

M.I.P.P.: All speakers of English as a Second Language must pass the English Proficiency Exam or pass two semesters of Advanced-level English in order to graduate.

M.E.P.P: All speakers of English as a Second Language must sit the Proficiency exam in September in order to ascertain whether they need extra English instruction during the academic year. Those students who fail the Proficiency exam will be advised to take either the Advanced English course or the Writing Workshop.

One-Year Bologna Center Diploma in International Studies: All speakers of English as a Second Language must pass the English Proficiency Exam or complete two semesters of Advanced-level English.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The SAIS English Proficiency exam is offered in Bologna three times per year: during Welcome Week, at the end of the fall semester/beginning of spring semester (January/February), and at the end of the spring semester (May).
- Passing scores on the English Proficiency exam in the four skills are as follows:
 - Listening, Reading, and Writing Superior
 - Speaking Advanced High

Please note that this information might be subject to change