



Policy Title: English Language Requirement

Approved by: Dean of Academics/Director of Admissions

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline Burren College of Art's fair, transparent and consistent requirements and standards for evaluating the English language ability of international learners applying for admission to BCA. This document follows accrediting partner, University of Galway's policy and processes for English language support for international applicants in receipt of an offer to study at Burren College of Art and to international learners once they are registered at both Burren College of Art and University of Galway.

2. Benefits

2.1 This policy supports the enrolment and admission of suitably qualified students and the creation of a diverse, international student body.

3. Scope

3.1 This policy applies to all programmes of study leading to academic qualifications awarded by University of Galway and encompasses non-credit courses (i.e. pre-sessional courses)

3.2. As a partnering institution of University of Galway regarding accreditation of our postgraduate degrees, BCA is required to document their own English Language policy which must align with the University's requirements as listed on their [Global Galway – Study in Ireland webpage](#) .

4. Definition

An international learner is defined as 'as a person who is not an Irish citizen but is lawfully in the state primarily to receive education and training' (Refer to the '[Policy on Authorisation to use the International Education Mark](#)', for details on how the definition of an international learner is to be applied for the purpose of the International Education Mark (IEM).

5. Context

The [International Education Mark \(IEM\)](#) is one of a suite of measures designed to protect the interests of learners engaged within the Irish education and training system. The *Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education to International Learners* requires Higher Education providers to develop an English language policy, as part of the authorisation process

for the IEM. This policy should be read in conjunction with (and is subject to) the relevant provisions of the Lisbon Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications.

6. Principles

A range of policies and operational procedures exist to support recruitment, admission and retention of international learners enrolled in programmes at Burren College of Art. The Burren College of Art's English language policy seeks to:

- i. Ensure a fair, transparent and consistent admission policy that supports the participation of international learners on their chosen programme.
- ii. Admit students from diverse cultures and backgrounds who are equipped to engage with and benefit from their education at Burren College of Art and contribute to the diversity of the student body.
- iii. Provide clear and transparent information on the quality arrangements for English language programmes
- iv. Provide clear and transparent information on how international learners can benefit from English language support during their period of study through partnering institution, University of Galway's [language services](#), which are available for BCA students after completion of registration.
- v. Ensure that all international learners are equipped with the essential English language competencies to be successful on their programmes.

7. Minimum Requirements for English Language Proficiency

7.1. Burren College of Art follows University of Galway requirements for international learners to meet certain minimum requirements in English language proficiency to ensure successful participation in their chosen programme. These requirements are available on the University of Galway's [Global Galway – Study in Ireland webpage](#) and on BCA [Admissions](#) webpages for each programme of study.

7.2. All applicants for whom English is not a first language or who have not been educated through the medium of English must present verifiable evidence of the required level of English language proficiency for their intended course of study which are listed on the University's webpage [Global Galway - Study in Ireland – Entry requirements](#) and on BCA [Admissions](#) webpages.

7.3 Burren College of Art's minimum standard level of English language proficiency required for entry to a degree course leading to a postgraduate award is published on the [Global Galway - Study in Ireland – Entry requirements](#).

7.4 Applicants who meet all the admissions criteria other than the English language requirement receive a conditional offer. The conditions of this offer require an achievement of minimum scores in the [specified English language proficiency tests](#).

8. English Language Support for International Students

8.1 Burren College of Art accepts a [wide range of English language proficiency test scores](#) to support and facilitate participation of international learners on their chosen programmes.

8.2 University of Galway provides a wide range of English language courses to support international learners during their period of study. [The English Language Centre](#) (ELC) is responsible for the delivery of a suite of English language programmes accessible to Burren College of Art students once registered at University of Galway.

8.3 University of Galway provides dedicated language support for registered international learners through English for Academic Purposes (EAP) workshops delivered by the English Language Centre (ELC). The ELC provides free semester-long, in-sessional non-credit bearing workshops including the following: Academic Writing (Essays and Dissertations); Speaking for Academic Purposes, Oral Fluency & Pronunciation workshops; Discipline-specific EAP workshops are available to Postgraduate Research students as part of Burren College of Art's MPhil and practice-based PhD programmes.

