



CEU

*Universidad
San Pablo*

**REGULATION 4/2017, OF UNIVERSIDAD CEU SAN PABLO
RELATING TO**

**CERTIFICATION OF THE LEVEL OF
ENGLISH NEEDED TO OBTAIN
DEGREES**

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RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF THE LEVEL OF ENGLISH
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(approved by the Academic Council at its session on 21 June, 2017,
and by the Trustees of the University, at their session on 7 July 2017)

PREAMBLE

The drive to increase quality and create a more international student body has been a distinctive feature of the Universidad CEU San Pablo for a number of years. It now plans to add to new educational requirements for its students by establishing minimum levels of knowledge of the English language.

The goal is to enhance the employability of its students by making them capable of adapting better to the global environment in which most university degrees now operate, and to respond to the increasingly demanding requirements of the labor market.

Universidad CEU San Pablo was a pioneer among Spanish universities in requiring a minimum level of knowledge of the English language, when before the implementation of the process derived from the European Higher Education Area, students had to certify a certain level of English studies in order to take the second cycle (TASC))¹ of their degree courses. This was done via an access test, but external certifications were also recognized.

¹ In the case of pre-Bologna diplomas, to complete their studies, students had to pass an internal level called TIP (Preliminary English Test), which is lower than the TASC requirements. In general, the TASC was equivalent to a level slightly lower than the Cambridge First Certificate, while the TIP was a level similar to B1.

The requirement to pass this test created organizational problems that resulted in its removal. Another reason for the disappearance of this requirement apart from these problems was undoubtedly the replacement of the two traditional university cycles in the former licentiate degrees by bachelor's degrees with a shorter period of study. A third factor was the fact that the introduction of the new curriculums involved an exhaustive analysis by the Quality Agencies for their verification, including the need to justify details of all the extra-curricular demands.

However, in recent years many universities have been demanding a minimum knowledge of other languages as a requirement for its students to obtain their university degrees. Some autonomous regions have even established this requirement for all students who take degrees in universities in their region.

Two very different realities can be distinguished in the linguistic competence of our students, driven by the commitment to make some degree more international:

- Students who take an International Bilingual Program or an International Program: These students already have a high or very high level of English at the start of the course, and enter the labor market with linguistic skills that are far higher than the average. This represents a differential factor for their employability.
- Students who take a degree taught in Spanish: These students begin the degree with a low or intermediate level of English. In many cases, far from improving this level they lose their knowledge during their studies, putting them in a far worse position in the labor market. It has also been noted that these students have increasingly greater difficulties in achieving the foreign-language levels required for mobility, or for entry into the labor market with a level that is currently required by the best companies,

regardless of the sector in which they operate.

These two contrasting aspects in the knowledge of foreign languages do not favor the image of quality that we aim for in our university: all the students obtain the same official degree, but while some have language skills that are far above the average, others are far below.

In short, it is essential to adopt the appropriate measures to encourage an increase in the level of foreign languages among our students in general, and in particular those who are taking a degree in Spanish.

Being aware that the commitment to quality and internationalization demands increasingly firm steps to be taken in demanding cross-cutting skills in all its degree courses, Universidad CEU San Pablo has established the following Regulation that obliges all its students to certify minimum levels of knowledge and skills in the English language before they complete their degrees.

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Scope of application

1. The provisions of this Regulation will be applicable to all students of Universidad CEU San Pablo who are enrolled in any of its official degree courses, regardless of nationality, and provided that this requirement of a certain level of English appears in the verification report of the degree in question.

Article 2. Required level of English

1. To obtain their degree, all the students of Universidad CEU San Pablo are obliged to certify a minimum B2 level of English, as established in the

Common European Reference Framework for Languages (CERFL).

2. Students must certify a level B2 of English when stipulated in the verification report of the degree in question.

Article 3. Exceptions

1. Universidad CEU San Pablo may waive the requirement to comply with this demand in the case of students who have some kind of disability that may prevent them from meeting the requirement.

CHAPTER II. PROCEDURE FOR CERTIFYING AND RECOGNIZING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIRED LEVEL OF ENGLISH

Article 4. Certifications accepted

1. The certifications automatically accepted as proof of the required level of English are those issued by the centers listed in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 5. Process for submitting the certification

1. Students may present documentary justification of having the level of English required at any time during their studies at the university registry in the Secretary of the center.
2. When presenting the documentary justification, students must sign a document provided by the Secretary of the center to which their degree is assigned, accepting the correctness of the data submitted and authorizing the University to check them.
3. The Secretary of the center will deliver a receipt to the student certifying the presentation of the corresponding documentation.

Article 6. Decision on the request

1. The Office of the Registrar will notify the student of the result of his or her

request for recognition of compliance with the university's minimum required English level. This notification must be made within one month from the completion of all the documentation by the student, provided that the certification submitted has been issued by one of the centers included in the Annex.

CHAPTER III. LINGUISTIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Article 7. Composition

The following are members of the Linguistic Policy Committee of Universidad CEU San Pablo:

- a. The Vice Rector for International Relations, acting as Chair.
- b. The Vice Rector for Students.
- c. The Director of the University Language Centre, acting as Secretary.
- d. The Head of the English Language Knowledge Area, or where required, of the English Language Teaching Unit.

Article 8. Functions

1. The Linguistic Policy Committee is the university's board responsible for reporting on the students' applications for linguistic recognition.
2. It also supervises the English tests to be taken by the students who apply for enrolment in Universidad CEU San Pablo. These tests must be given at the time of the application for general admission, or in any event before the official enrolment.
3. They also have the following duties:
 - a. Oversee the correct operation of the certification procedure, particularly that operating through the University's Language Center.

- b. Propose to the Permanent Committee of the Academic Council, through its Chair, the measures it considers appropriate within its competences.

CHAPTER IV. MEASURES TO ASSIST THE STUDENTS' CERTIFICATION OF THEIR LEVEL OF ENGLISH

Article 9. Support measures

1. The University will offer students courses to prepare their level of English for the level required to obtain their degree.
2. The courses will be offered through the University's Language Center, and may be permanent or occasional.
 - a. The permanent courses will be organized within the Language Center based on IT programs made available for the students at any time during each academic year.
 - b. The occasional courses will correspond to classroom sessions determined by the Linguistic Policy Committee and offered from time to time every year through the Language Center, adapting the groups to the level of each student.
3. The University will also make it possible for students to access the training offered by the official center(s) included in the Annex.

FIRST FINAL PROVISION

This Regulation will be applicable to students who enter Universidad CEU San Pablo in the academic year 2018/19.

SECOND FINAL PROVISION

1. Any new degree curriculum, or any modification to a curriculum already in place, must include the language requirement established in this Regulation.



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2. All the degree curriculums of Universidad CEU San Pablo must incorporate this requirement into their Verification Reports not later than the academic year 2019/20.

Certificates allowing the certification of English levels
Table 1

Council of Europe CEFR	B2 (Advanced)	
Official Language School Royal Decree 1629/2006	Advanced Level Certificate	
Certificates Approved by ACLES (Association of Higher Education Language Centers)	CertAcles B2	
Cambridge English Language Assessment ESOL Examinations	General ¹	First (FCE)
	BEC (Business English Certificates)	Vantage (BEC2)
	ICFE/ILEC (International Certificate in Financial/Legal English)	PASS B2
	IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Academic & General	5.5-6.5
	BULATS (Business Language Testing System) Four skills	60-74
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	TOEFL-IBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet Based)	72-94
	TOEIC (Test of English for International Communications) Four skills	≥1095
APTIS (British Council)	B2	
Capman Testing Solutions 360 LPT (Language Proficiency Test) Four Skills	B2	

Table 2

Council of Europe CERF	B2 (Advanced)	
Oxford Test of English B	B2	
UNlcert validated certificates	Level 2	
Certificat de Compétences en Langues de l'Enseignement Sup'erieur (CLEs)	CLEs 2	
The European Language Certificates (TELC)	TELC B2	
University of Michigan (Cambridge Michigan Language Assessments)	Certificate of Competency in English (ECCE)	
Trinity College London (ISE)	ISEII	
London School of Commerce		
London Test of English (LTE)	Level 3	
PTE (Pearson Test of English)	General	Level 3
	Academic	≥59
Anglia Ascentis ESOL Examinations	General	Advanced
	Business	Advanced

Table 3

Council of Europe CEFR	Learning Resource Network	
	Certificate in ESOL International Four skills	IELCA (International English Language Competency Assessment) Four skills
B2 Advanced	LRN Level 1	IELCA CEF B2

Students with Philology diplomas in a Foreign Language or similar studies equivalent to degrees, as well as those with Translation diplomas (only applicable to their language B), who want to take postgraduate studies, are exempt from taking an exam up to and including level C1, or from presenting equivalent certificates at this level of the foreign language in their specialization.

Also, native speakers of a foreign language who hold a Baccalaureate or similar certificate from their country are exempt from accrediting a mastery equivalent to level B2 of a foreign language; as are Spanish students who have a diploma or studies equivalent to the Baccalaureate in a foreign language in accordance with the educational systems of European countries (International Baccalaureate).

For all these certificates it is recommended that only the level for which the exam was taken should be recognized. For certificates that reflect the specific level of each different skill (oral and written expression, as well as listening and reading comprehension), it is recommended that the minimum obtained out of all the skills is recognized as the overall level of the certificate, regardless of the level stated in the actual document.

**Circular 1/2018 from the Vice-Rector's Office for International Relations, applying
Regulation 4/2017 of Universidad San Pablo-CEU with respect to Certification of the
Level of English for obtaining Bachelor's Degrees**

31 October, 2018

Article 2 of Regulation 4/2017 of Universidad San Pablo-CEU establishes that to obtain a Bachelor's Degree all the students must certify a minimum B2 level of English, as established by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL) In turn, its First Final Provision establishes that the Regulation will be applicable to students who enter Universidad San Pablo-CEU starting in the academic year 2018/19.

The practical application of Regulation 4/2017 requires that the criteria should be assigned and clarified for certain groups of students who were not included in the initial regulation. Specifically, when it comes to applying the rule demanding certification of their level of English, as follows:

1.- In the case of students enrolled in an International Bilingual Program (programs with the University of Chicago, Boston University, Fordham University or UCLA), their B2 level of English shall be considered to be certified by the programs' access tests, which demand a higher level of English than the established minimum.

2.- Students enrolled in an International Degree (degrees taught wholly or partly in English, but not associated with an International Bilingual Program) must certify a B2 level of English before completing their second year.

3.- Students at Universidad San Pablo-CEU who already have a transcript from one university diploma, but are taking another degree starting in 2018/19, must certify their minimum level of English before starting the new degree, provided that the rule demanding a minimum level of English in the course they are enrolled in is applicable to students of Universidad San Pablo-CEU.

4.- Students who enter Universidad San Pablo-CEU through a process of credit recognition must certify a minimum level of English before completing the degree, provided that in the course in which they are enrolled (understood as the one in which they have the greatest number of credits) the rule for certifying the minimum level of English is applicable to students of Universidad San Pablo-CEU.

5- Students of Optics and Optometry and Human Nutrition and Dietetics who enter Universidad San Pablo-CEU as Graduates will not be subject to compliance with Regulation 4/2017.