



International Education
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English Proficiency Guidelines for Graduation				
	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
IELTS Overall Band Score Requirement	4.5 or more	5 or more	5.5 or more	6 or more
Estimated Number of Years to Complete Diploma	4 years & 1-2 additional years if required*	3 years & 1-2 additional years if required*	2 years & 1-2 additional years if required*	1 year & 1-2 additional years if required*
<p>*While most Ontario students complete their high school diploma in four years, International Students often require additional time to develop sufficient English language proficiency to be successful in their courses (especially academic courses). Though individual students vary at the rate at which they develop English language proficiency, most international students can expect to require an additional 1-2 years of study to acquire their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).</p>				

Band	Proficiency	Description
6	Competent User	Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies, and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
5	Modest User	Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.
4	Limited User	Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language.

Important Notice: English Proficiency scores do not have any bearing on how long it may take for a student to meet all requirements to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. This document is intended to provide agents, students and parents with a general idea of where a student can possibly be placed according to the level of English proficiency.