Additional UK internship visa requirements for international students

UKBA has added a requirement to the visa application process regarding English language level assessment. The requirement will not affect US citizens, but may impact the international participants on the Purdue London Internship Program as well as students who only have resident status in the United States.

Any student who is not from one of the following countries listed below will have to complete a UKBA approved English language test prior to obtaining a CAS number to start the UK Tier 4 visa process.

The UKBA recognizes the following countries as majority English-speaking countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United States of America

Any student who is not from one of the above countries will need to provide evidence that they have passed an appropriate English language test with one of the UKBA’s approved test providers before their CAS can be issued. The evidence must show that they have achieved at least Common European Framework of Reference for Languages level B2 in all 4 components (unless exempted from sitting a component by a test provider on the basis of their disability). It is also important to note the each test has a time period for which the tests are valid and the scores required to meet CEFR level B2 in all 4 components.

When students submit their Tier 4 application, they must also provide their qualification certificate or approved English language test certificate.

TOEFL and TOEIC test scores are NOT accepted by the UKBA. Some acceptable tests and required scores are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IELTS*</th>
<th>Pearson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listening – 5.5</td>
<td>Listening – 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking – 5.5</td>
<td>Speaking – 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading – 5.5</td>
<td>Reading – 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing – 5.5</td>
<td>Writing – 51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students only need to take the IELTS academic test and should disregard the information regarding the tests for UKVI (UK visa) purposes.
Most test scores are only valid for two years, so most students will not have a valid test score as of March/April 2016. In order to have the results in time to apply for the visa, prospective London interns have to take the test before they are fully accepted into the London Internship Program. Therefore students must take the test on or before Saturday, January 23, 2016. Seating is limited so register early to ensure you are able to sit the exam at your preferred date and location.

Students can take the test in West Lafayette, Indianapolis, or Chicago; please check the Pearson and IELTS websites for locations, test dates, registration instructions, and the exact costs (approximately $200).

Students should not send the official scores sent to Purdue. Program participants will need to give the Purdue Study Abroad Office a scan or copy of the test results in order to obtain the CAS number that’s required for the visa. Later, the test score results must be included with the rest of the visa documents when mailing the visa application to UKBA.