Quick Guide: Understanding IELTS

IELTS Academic is the test that measures English language competency across 4 skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

The majority of BA degrees require a minimum IELTS Band 6 for entry.

A Band 6 IELTS is not a particularly high score. This student will be generally effective, with some inaccuracies, inappropriate words and misunderstandings.

These students will still need support in specific academic literacies. They will also need support in the genre and discourses specific to their disciplines.

International students need ongoing language support within their degrees.

Writing skills often show little improvement over a degree, and even a decline, perhaps due to 'soft marking'. 1/3 of students did not achieve Band 6 on exit from an Australian tertiary institution (Birrell, 2006).

TEQSA Course Accreditation Standards Applicable:

- 1.2: provide for appropriate development of key graduate attributes in students including English Language Proficiency.
- 3.2: students who are enrolled are sufficiently competent in the English language to participate effectively in the course of study and achieve its expected learning outcomes
- 5.6: The higher education provider is able to demonstrate appropriate progression and completion rates and students who complete the course of study have attained key graduate attributes including an appropriate level of English language proficiency.

Academic Language and Learning