

English proficiency requirements for serving as a Teaching Assistant or Teaching Associate:

Passing score for a campus-approved test

- **TOEFL iBT**
 - Minimum score: 26 on the speaking section for tests taken prior to January 21, 2026. 5 on the speaking section for tests taken on or after January 21, 2026.
 - Scores are valid for two years after the test date.
- **IELTS**
 - Minimum score: 8 on the speaking section
 - Scores are valid for two years after the test date.
- **TOEP**
 - Minimum score: 5
 - Scores are valid for the duration of the time a student is enrolled at UCI.

or;

Institution where the undergraduate degree was earned

- Earned an undergraduate degree from an institution at which English was the **sole** language of instruction according to the [World Higher Education Database](#) within five years prior to admission to a graduate program at UCI.

Does the student meet one of the requirements?

Yes

The student is eligible to be hired as a teaching assistant or associate

No

Did the student earn an undergraduate degree from an institution at which English was the **sole** language of instruction according to the [World Higher Education Database](#) more than five years prior to admission to a graduate program at UCI?

No

The student must take and pass one of the campus-approved tests. Please see the box to the left for a list of approved tests and minimum scores.

Yes

The hiring department may request that the student take an oral screening with Program in Global Languages & Cultures (GLC) to determine if the student will be required to pass one of the campus-approved tests prior to being appointed or will be exempted from further testing.