



The Business School
for the World®

GEMBA Language Policy

NB: This Language Policy applies to applicants of the GEMBA Programme.

Last revised in September 2019. Please note that this Language Policy document is subject to change regularly and without prior notice.

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INSEAD Language Proficiency Measurement Scale

INSEAD uses a five-level scale which measures language competency. This is in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for language levels (CEFR). Below is a table which indicates the proficiency needed to fulfil INSEAD language requirement.

To be admitted to the GEMBA Programme, a candidate must have a “fluent” level in English. This will be referred to as your “Entry language”. *(More details can be found on Page 4.)*

A candidate must also have at least an “A2 basic” level of understanding of a second language. This will be referred to as your “Exit language”. *(More details can be found on Page 5.)*

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	INSEAD REQUIREMENTS
Native	Ability to communicate spontaneously, very fluently and precisely in more complex situations. <i>Equivalent to C2 on CEFR scale.</i>	
Fluent	Ability to communicate very fluently and precisely in complex situations. <i>Equivalent to C1 on CEFR scale.</i>	Minimum Required Level for English Proficiency
Business	Ability to interact with a degree of fluency and communicate on a wide range of subjects including in a professional context. <i>Equivalent to B2 on CEFR scale.</i>	
Practical	Ability to understand and communicate on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc. <i>Equivalent to B1 on CEFR scale.</i>	
Basic	Ability to communicate in a simple and direct exchange of information on routine matters. <i>Equivalent to A2 on CEFR scale.</i>	Minimum Required Level for Exit Language
Beginner	Ability to communicate in a simple way, using familiar, everyday basic phrases. <i>Equivalent to A1 on CEFR scale.</i>	

Native Languages - Please note the following:

- ✓ The definition of a native language is the first language you have been exposed to from birth and the language in which you consider yourself most fluent and skilled. Therefore, it is not necessary for you to certify your first declared native language.
- ✓ You may declare a second native language in your application. Please note that proof will be required to validate your second declared native language.

English Proficiency Certification (Entry Language)

If English is not your native language, you might be asked to demonstrate your level of English. Please find below the following ways you could do this, if asked:

- **A UNIVERSITY DEGREE** - *a minimum of one full-time academic year, taught exclusively in English, with a diploma received from that host university (an exchange programme does not qualify).*
The transcripts should clearly mention the language of instruction is English.

- **TOEFL***

www.toefl.org Internet-based test (recommended minimum score: **103**)

- **PTE Academic***

<https://pearsonpte.com> (recommended minimum score: **70**)

- **CPE* - Certificate of Proficiency in English**

<http://www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/cpe.htm> (recommended minimum score: **Grade B**)

- **IELTS Academic***

www.ielts.org (recommended minimum score: **7.5**)

- **IAD** - *If you register for an INSEAD Assessment Day, we could assess your level of English while you are on campus.*

The combination of your native language and your English proficiency is sufficient means to satisfy the Entry & Exit language requirements.

GEMBA Exit Language Requirement

If **English is your native language**, we do not require proof to certify your level of English.

To satisfy the Exit language requirement, you will need to provide acceptable means of certification as soon as possible, and before the programme ends.

Acceptable means to certify competence for the Exit requirement

(in addition to English):

- **Second native language** **Fluent**
Examined only on a case-by-case basis and requires evidence of actual use.

- **Final Secondary School Exam** **Fluent**
Exam and schooling must be conducted in the language:
E.g. Brevet or Baccalauréat to validate French; Immersion programme in Canada; Abitur for German; Maturita for Italian, (for Singaporeans) GCE “A” level or “O” level for Mandarin, Tamil & Malay; Secondary Education Certificate for Hindi or other national Indian languages (10th grade minimum) and for Afrikaans, etc.

- **University education** **Business**
a) Conducted in the language (certification required).
b) A university major or minor in the language.

- **Certification from state-recognised cultural or commercial bodies currently known to INSEAD** **According to Performance**
You are free to choose which Exit language you declare, but it is your responsibility to ensure that the language you choose can be tested (both oral and written) by an official institution.

Useful links and FAQs

Please find below some useful documents to help you prepare your languages for studying on the INSEAD GEMBA Programme.

[Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)