

Pre-sessional Course Factsheet & Frequently Asked Questions (Alliance MBS Masters Admissions)

In circumstances where applicants do not meet Alliance Manchester Business School's (AMBS) English language admission requirements, they may be recommended to study a Pre-sessional English Language course delivered at the University Language Centre in Manchester. You will progress to the Masters degree upon successful completion of the Pre-sessional course.

This formal recommendation is an alternative option to retaking an English Language test (IELTS or TOEFL etc.) and **ONLY** comes as a condition in an official offer to study an AMBS master's programme. To be recommended, applicants will need to meet the minimum requirement for a pre-sessional programme in a valid and recognised language test, as outlined on our website (<http://www.mbs.ac.uk/masters/courses/entry-requirements/language-requirements.aspx>)

Eligibility for a Pre-sessional English Language Course

IELTS: Minimum 6.5 overall with no individual element below 6.0

PEARSON: Minimum 59 overall with no individual element below 51

TOEFL: Minimum 90 overall, 21 in reading/listening and no other element below 20

Please note: If you require a visa to study in the UK, you can only use a **TOEFL** and **Pearson** test if you have completed your academic study and are eligible for a joint CAS.

IELTS: Changes to Tier 4 Student Visa English Language Requirements

There are now two types of IELTS tests which can be used by students for visa purposes; **Standard IELTS** test and **UKVI-IELTS** test.

If you have already met our academic requirements and English language requirements, a single visa may be issued covering both the Pre-sessional English Language course and the Master degree. If, however, you obtain a conditional offer for the Master degree and your academic results are pending you may still enrol in a Pre-sessional English Language course on a separate visa.

If a separate visa is required, **only** UKVI-IELTS taken at UKVI approved IELTS centres globally will be accepted for entry on to a Pre-sessional English Language course.

On applying for a Masters programme at Alliance MBS you therefore have the following options:

1. If you have not yet completed your current academic study and are interested in studying a Pre-sessional English Language course prior to your study on a Masters programme, it is strongly recommended that you take the UKVI-IELTS test to ensure you are eligible for a separate visa for the language course in case needed.
2. If you have already completed your academic study and are interested in studying a Pre-sessional English course, either the UKVI-IELTS test or the Standard IELTS test can be accepted as long as you achieve our minimum IELTS Pre-sessional requirements. Other qualifications equivalent to IELTS (such as TOEFL, Pearson Test of English, Cambridge English Advanced/Proficiency, and Trinity College London ISE) may also be acceptable.

If you have been made an offer including the following condition:

“Subject to taking a Pre-session English Language Course at the University of Manchester Language Centre. The course length will be determined once you have submitted a UKVI-IELTS test in line with our requirements.”

You must email a copy of your UKVI-IELTS certificate to your Admissions Officer for verification. The Admissions Team will then advise on the length of the Pre-session English Language course that you are eligible to apply for.

‘IELTS-UKVI’ FAQs

Q. I have taken a Standard IELTS, can I be accepted onto a Pre-session English Language course?

If you have completed your academic study and graduated you can be accepted onto a Pre-session English Language course on the basis of a Standard IELTS test that meets our minimum IELTS Pre-session requirements.

If you have not completed your academic study you **cannot** be accepted onto a Pre-session English Language course on the basis of a Standard IELTS test. You will require a separate visa for your Pre-session English Language course and your Masters programme. If a separate visa is required, only UKVI-IELTS taken at UKVI approved test centres globally will be accepted for entry onto a Pre-session English Language course.

Q. I have taken an UKVI-IELTS, can I be accepted onto a Pre-session English Language course?

Yes. You are eligible if you meet our minimum IELTS Pre-session requirements.

The Pre-session English Language Course

The Pre-session English Language courses are designed to help develop the language skills needed to progress to a university postgraduate programme. They are also a fantastic opportunity for international students to adjust to life in the UK and become familiar with the University surroundings and Manchester city, before embarking on the Masters programme.

The Pre-session English Language course covers areas such as academic writing, note-taking and presentation skills with a focus on improving academic English. The length of course required will be determined by AMBS with advice from the ULC.

Please note: AMBS only offer the option to study **6 or 10 week** programmes, depending on the applicant’s current English Language test score.

Please also note: AMBS have their **own** English language entry requirements that are different to those stated on the University Language Centre website (<http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/study-english/our-courses/presessional-english/>)

For example: *It may be that an applicant meets the requirement for a 6 week Pre-session course (as per the ULC website) but have been offered a 10 week course by AMBS, this is **NOT** a mistake and is due to the fact that AMBS sets its own English language requirements that are a reflection of the academic demands of Post-graduate study at AMBS.*

How to apply

Applications for Pre-session English Language courses are submitted through the University online application facility, similarly to applying for an MSc programme. You can find a link to this with ‘How to Apply’ instructions on the University Language Centre website (<http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/study-english/our-courses/presessional-english/how-to-apply/>), please read this carefully. (Applicants are advised **not** to apply for a pre-session course until they have received an official offer to study on a Master’s programme at AMBS).

*****You will need to use the same University ID number quoted on your offer letter*****

Pre-sessional English Language FAQs

Q. Will I have to take IELTS at the end of the Pre-sessional English Language course?

No, if the ULC confirm on the final day of the course (when results are sent to AMBS) that you have reached the AMBS English requirements and have attended a minimum 80% of the course you will be allowed to join your MSc programme.

Q. How will I be assessed on the Pre-sessional English Language course?

You will be tested (or your current IELTS score will be used) and placed in a group at the start of your period of study. Continuous assessment operates throughout the course and a final assessment is made at the end of your period of study.

Q. What happens if I fail the Pre-sessional English Language course?

The ULC would advise AMBS whether an in-sessional course would be sufficient. On rare occasions where a student falls far below the required standard for entry on to a course at AMBS, a meeting would take place between the student and the Admissions Manager at AMBS to consider the available options and to discuss the possibility of the student withdrawing or deferring their AMBS course until they meet the English conditions.

Q. Can I study a Pre-sessional English Language course elsewhere?

No, this condition is only valid for Pre-sessional study at the University Language Centre (University of Manchester).

Q. Can I book on a Pre-sessional English Language course and retake an IELTS in the meantime?

Yes, and if you improve your test score we will update your offer accordingly, and we will inform the ULC.

Q. What happens if I meet your language requirement before the Pre-sessional English Language course starts?

Full payment of the Pre-sessional English Language course is required after application. If you meet your overall language requirement and no longer need to study a Pre-sessional English Language course and therefore wish to cancel your Pre-sessional English Language course you must contact the University Language Centre at least 20 working days before the course starts and any fees paid will be transferred as a down-payment towards your main course fees. Please refer to the ULC Booking conditions: <http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/study-english/our-courses/presessional-english/booking-conditions/>

Q. Can I accept my offer with AMBS and make a decision whether to study a Pre-sessional English Language course later?

Yes, but you will need to let us know if you decide to book and we will update your record.

Please remember that Pre-sessional courses are extremely popular and have limited places so there is no guarantee of a place. We advise early booking and will advise of the application deadlines shortly.

Q. When do the Pre-sessional English Language courses start?

You can find start dates and application deadlines on the University Language Centre website (<http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/study-english/our-courses/presessional-english/dates-and-fees/>)

Q. What happens if I choose to retake an IELTS test but do not meet the overall requirement, can I choose to study a Pre-sessional English Language course then?

Yes, if it meets AMBS's minimum requirement for an offer and is before the application deadline (see above). AMBS will update your offer according to your new score. Please ensure you take the correct IELTS test when choosing to retake i.e. if you have an academic condition within your offer, you will be required to take a 'UKVI-IELTS' in order to apply for a single visa.

Q. Will there be accommodation provided?

Accommodation is not included in the Pre-sessional English Language course fees. Accommodation can be arranged via the Accommodation Office. Updated information will also be available on the ULC website soon: <http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/study-english/our-courses/presessional-english/presessional-accommodation/>

Q. Will I have to move accommodation when I start my Masters study?

You will need to apply for accommodation through the University Accommodation Office (<http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/>) for both your Pre-sessional course and your Masters course. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to reside in the same hall for your Pre-sessional accommodation and your Masters accommodation. Please contact the University Accommodation Office for more details.