

BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

English Language Requirement

The BPTC Sub Committee has completed a review of the IELTS entry requirement for the Bar Professional Training Course. The transitional arrangements were found to be inadequate and possibly discriminatory in terms of Equality and Diversity and also in terms of European Law. It is therefore proposed that the following IELTS requirement will be put in place:

1. All candidates seeking a place on the BTPC are required to verify that:
 - a. They have achieved a minimum score of 7.5 in each part of the IELTS academic test; alternatively
 - b. They have achieved a minimum score of 28 in each part of the internet based TOEFL test; alternatively
 - c. They have achieved the specified minimum score in each part of a test operated by Pearson Vue

Certificates issued by a test provider verifying the minimum score achieved by a candidate in one of the above tests must be current and valid by reference to the rules of that test provider as at the date the candidate commences the BTPC.

2. Nothing in the above requirement shall prevent or restrict the right of a BVC provider to require a candidate on the course to undertake further English language testing or to require a candidate to withdraw from the course if the provider reasonably concludes that the candidate cannot speak and/or write English to a level that is equivalent to a current score of at least 7.5 in all parts of the IELTS test.

The BSB believes that compliance with one of the standards identified above is the absolute minimum necessary to successfully complete the Bar Professional Training Course.