

PROOF OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

The working language of the Barenboim-Said Akademie is English.

All applicants must demonstrate English proficiency during the application process.

- **Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Artist Diploma** applicants must demonstrate at least an **B2 CEFR** level of English by the time of enrollment.
- **Preparatory Program** applicants must demonstrate at least an **A2 CEFR** level of English.

Accepted tests

Applicants may submit one of the following English language certificates. Minimum required scores are listed below.

	TOEFL Essentials *	TOEFL iBT* (0-120)	TOEFL iBT* (1-6)	TOEFL iTP*	Academic IELTS	Cambridge Certificate	Linguaskill General	LanguageCert LTE
Preparatory Program	3			38	3		120	20
Bachelor of Music	8	72	4.0	54	5.5	Minimum Grade C	160	60
Master of Music	8	72	4.0	54	5.5	Minimum Grade C	160	60
Artist Diploma	8	72	4.0	54	5.5	Minimum Grade C	160	60

* When submitting TOEFL results through your ETS account, please include our institutional code **B600**.

TOEFL iBT scoring update: As of **21 January 2026**, ETS reports TOEFL iBT results on a **1–6 scale** aligned with the CEFR. Scores issued prior to this date may continue to be reported on the **0–120 scale** during a transition period. The Akademie accepts **both formats**, as indicated above.

Exemptions

You are exempt from submitting an English language certificate if **one** of the following applies:

- **English is your first language.**
You may indicate this on your application. This option requires that you completed

your entire secondary/high school education in an English-speaking country.
Submitted educational documents will be cross-checked.

- **You hold (or will complete within 24 months)** a degree from an accredited university where the language of instruction is English. In this case, please upload your transcripts and certificates in the application portal.

If you are unsure which option applies to you, contact us at admissions@barenboimsaid.de or book a one-to-one Zoom consultation with the Office of Admissions

Deadline

All applicants must provide valid proof of English proficiency by **15 April** of the relevant admissions cycle.

Additional Information for Preparatory and Bachelor Applicants

Preparatory Program applicants who have not taken one of the accepted English tests within the past two years and are invited to audition will be asked to schedule an online proctored English language test sponsored by the Akademie. This test will take place before the audition date.

Eligible Bachelor of Music applicants from North Africa and the Middle East (as described under “Who Should Apply” in the Preparatory Program section on our [Find Your Program of Study](#) page) who have not taken one of the accepted tests within the past two years and are invited to audition may also indicate on their application that they wish to take the Akademie-sponsored English test.

Important Note: Admitted students whose English proficiency is still considered insufficient may be required to complete a mandatory intensive English course either before arrival or upon enrollment.

The Akademie expects students to demonstrate a **B2 level at enrollment** and to progress to **C1 level** within their first year of studies.

Further information

TOEFL Essentials: <https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/essentials/about.html>

TOEFL ITP: http://www.ets.org/s/toefl_itp/pdf/38781-TOEFL-itp-flyer_Level1_HR.pdf

TOEFL IBT / IELTS: [TOEFL iBT Scores \(ets.org\)](#)

IELTS and CEFR: [IELTS | IELTS and the CEFR](#)

Cambridge Certificate: <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/cefr/>

Linguaskill General: [How results are presented \(cambridgeenglish.org\)](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/how-to-use-the-test/)

LanguageCERT LTE: [LanguageCert General](https://www.languagecert.com/)