ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Decision	☒
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☐

DATE: 25 June 2024

PRESENTED BY: Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

SUBJECT: **English Language Proficiency – Oxford ELLT**

MANDATE

Under the Policy Framework and the University's Act and By-laws, Academic Council is responsible for approving Academic Policy and to make recommendations to the Board on "the establishment and terms of reference of committees to exercise the Academic Council's delegated authority" under By- law no. 2. The Undergraduate Studies Committee has a mandate of maintaining the academic standards set by Academic Council and to serve as deliberative bodies for academic policy instruments.

The USC has received the Oxford ELLT in accordance with its mandate under the Terms of Reference and recommends approval.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

That, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Oxford International Digital Institute (OIDI) partnership and use of the Oxford ELLT test from applicants, as sufficient evidence of English language proficiency with a recommended minimum score of 8 for Education and Nursing programs and 7 for other undergraduate programs and effective for the January 2025 intake.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

To broaden access to English Language Proficiency tests for international applicants, the Oxford ELLT provides additional options for students to complete this admission requirement in an online format. Oxford ELLT can be completed entirely online or through a test centre at a VFS Global location.

The Oxford ELLT test comprises four sections in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The speaking portion is conducted over a video call, and the same examiner

will also mark the writing component.

Oxford ELLT has a thorough set of security measures including TrustID to verify student documents (including passport), and Facial Biometric Scanning. AI Proctoring Software is also used for the duration of the test.

Comparison to other English Language Proficiency Tests
The minimum score has been determined based on a comparison to other leading academic English tests. The minimum score of 7-8 is in line with our minimum IELTS requirement.

Oxford ELLT is new to the Canadian marketplace, however they are an approved test of many of the Top 100 Universities globally, including University of Edinburgh, University of Bristol, University of Glasgow and University of York.

CONSULATION AND APPROVAL PATH

- Deliberative Body: USC June 2024 for recommendation
- Approval Authority: Academic Council: June 2024

NEXT STEPS:

- Pending the approval of Academic Council, this agreement will become effective as of the winter 2025 intake.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Memo from the University Registrar

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Policy Change Proposal

To: Academic Council

From: Dr. Joe Stokes, University Registrar and AVP International

Re: English Language Proficiency – Oxford ELLT

Date: June 2024

Motion

To accept the Oxford ELLT test (Oxford International Digital Institute) from applicants as sufficient evidence of English language proficiency effective for the 2024/25 admissions cycle. The following are the recommended scores for undergraduate programs:

Nursing and Education – Minimum score of 8

All other undergraduate programs – Minimum score of 7

Rationale

To broaden access to English Language Proficiency tests for international applicants, the Oxford ELLT provides additional options for students to complete this admission requirement in an online format. Oxford ELLT can be completed entirely online or through a test centre at a VFS Global location.
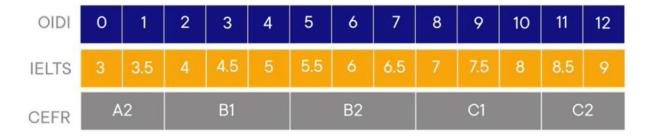The Oxford ELLT test comprises four sections in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The speaking portion is conducted over a video call, and the same examiner will also mark the writing component.

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IELTS   6.5 - 7.0 (with no sub-score below 6.0)

OIDI	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
IELTS	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9
CEFR	A2		B1			B2			C1			C2	

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