

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

Decision   
Discussion/Direction   
Information

DATE: 25 June 2024

PRESENTED BY: Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

SUBJECT: English Language Proficiency – Oxford ELP Partnership

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### 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 ELP partnership 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 ELP partnership.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

In an effort to continue to grow the undergraduate international student population at Ontario Tech University, the Office of the Registrar is proposing a partnership with Oxford International Digital Institute (OIDI). Recent IRCC policy changes have limited the ability for international students to enrol in language proficiency programs in Canada. Partnering with OIDI will provide an option for students to complete their English studies prior to arriving in Canada, while also opening a new recruitment channel for recruiting prospective students. OIDI's Pathways English Online program is 100% online with a blend of synchronous and asynchronous studies, and continuous formative and summative assessments.

### Recognition from other Canadian Institutions

The following Canadian colleges and universities have entered into similar partnerships with OIDI Pathways English Online and do not require presentation of a standardized

English language test:

- Brock University
- Trent University
- Capilano University
- NSCAD
- SAIT
- Thompson Rivers University

### **CONSULTATION 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: Oxford International Digital Institute ELP partnership

Date: June 2024

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In an effort to continue to grow the undergraduate international student population at Ontario Tech University, the Office of the Registrar is proposing a partnership with Oxford International Digital Institute (OIDI). Recent IRCC policy changes have limited the ability for international students to enrol in language proficiency programs in Canada. Partnering with OIDI will provide an option for students to complete their English studies prior to arriving in Canada, while also opening a new recruitment channel for recruiting prospective students. OIDI's Pathways English Online program is 100% online with a blend of synchronous and asynchronous studies, and continuous formative and summative assessments.

This partnership would allow for international students attending OIDI's Pathway English Online program to be evaluated for admission to Ontario Tech University undergraduate programs that require a 6.5 IELTS on a competitive basis without the presentation of a standardized English language test (IELTS, TOEFL, DET etc.):

To qualify for this exemption, students must complete OIDI's Pathway English Online program at Level 7 to be eligible for admission.

For programs that require a 7.0 IELTS (Nursing and Education), students who have completed Level 7 can opt to enrol in Level 6 at Ontario Tech University's English Language Centre (ELC) or submit an IELTS of 7.0 (or equivalent).

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- Brock University
- Trent University
- Capilano University
- NSCAD
- SAIT
- Thompson Rivers University

We are confident that participation in OIDI Pathways English Online program will provide the necessary English preparation for Ontario Tech University applicants. This agreement would become effective for the January 2025 intake.