



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

23 November 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Reduction of DLIELC Minimum ECL Entry From 55 to 50 For 18-24 Months

1. Effective 31 January 2023, the minimum English Comprehension Level (ECL) score required for entry into DLIELC's general English language training (ELT) courses without a waiver will be 50. This reduction in ECL will remain in effect until 30 June 2024. The primary purpose of this reduction is to support a formal comprehensive assessment, and its associated analysis, of a lower entry score's impact on International Military Student (IMS) entry numbers, throughput, and graduation rates. This change has been coordinated with DSCA and will supersede the SAMM minimum ECL requirements during the period of the assessment unless extended or rescinded via a future MFR.
2. This period of assessment is necessary to enable DLIELC to collect sufficient data to develop a linguistic baseline. The goal of the study is to obtain data about entry-ECL effects on graduation rates and, insofar as possible, to support future U.S. efforts to align ECL entry score requirements and ELT programming to specific regional and native language populations. Ultimately, more precise predictive models will help both the U.S. and its partners more efficiently plan ELT duration, costs, and student loads.
4. In support of this effort, it is important for MilDeps, Components, COCOMS, SCOs, and IMSOs to 1) inform partner nations of this temporary adjustment of the entry ECL and explain its rationale and duration, and 2) inform partner nations that entering students at a 50 ECL vice 55 ECL may result in a longer, more costly training duration. Depending on the starting ECL and the Follow-on-Training ECL requirement, the actual (vs. estimated) length of time needed to achieve an ECL of 70, 80, or 85 could lengthen by as much as 5-10 weeks or more. While it is hoped that all our partner nations will consider sending students at the lower ECL level [the larger the study sample population, the more accurate and broadly applicable the outcome], it is important that they be informed and acknowledge the potentially greater cost.
5. For questions or concerns, please contact Mr. David Lowe, AETC/IAO, at (210) 652-3746/ DSN 487-3746, or via email at david.lowe.35@us.af.mil.

GEORGE R. GAGNON, SES
Director, International Training and Education

DISTRIBUTION (listed on next page)

DISTRIBUTION

AF/A1D
AFRICOM
CENTCOM
DLIELC
DSCA
EUCOM
INDOPACOM
NETSAFA
NORTHCOM
SAF/IAPX
SATFA
SOUTHCOM