REVIEW OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS
OF UWA GRADUATES

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: That from 2009 admission to postgraduate research study at UWA requires an IELTS (or the equivalent) overall score of 6.5, with scores no lower than 6.0 for speaking and listening and no lower than 6.5 for reading and writing.

Recommendation 2: That Planning Services undertake annual analysis which maps students’ UWA results against their admission scores for English language requirements.

Recommendation 3: That in consultation with the Teaching and Learning Committee, the Equity and Diversity Office prepare guidelines and other resources on cultural sensitivity in teaching and assessment, including as regards the use of varieties of English.

Recommendation 4: That staff numbers for English language assistance in the Learning, Language and Research Skills Unit be increased to 2.0 FTE and that a comparable ratio of English language advisors: students be maintained as the University grows.

Recommendation 5: That all unit outlines should include the following statement or similar: Assistance with Study Skills, including English language skills, is available free of charge to all enrolled students from Student Services [www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au; location: Student Services, Guild Village, Second Floor; tel.: 6488.2423].

Recommendation 6: That Student Services develop more on-line resources to assist improvement in English language skills.

Recommendation 7: That workload calculations for teaching in units where significant numbers of students have problems with English language, and for postgraduate research supervision of students with such problems, give due consideration to the work required to cover difficulties with English language skills.

Recommendation 8: That Faculty Teaching and Learning Committees check that each ‘year’ of the Faculty’s courses require students to demonstrate English language skills, and report their findings to the University’s Teaching and Learning Committee.

Recommendation 9: That Academic Council discuss the value of conducting periodic audits in order to ensure awareness of and adoption of selected Academic Board and Academic Council resolutions.
Recommendation 10: That the Teaching and Learning Committee work with Faculty Teaching and Learning Committees to advise all academic staff and all professional staff who have direct contact with students of their responsibilities with respect to identifying students who may require additional English language training and to knowing where such training is available; and to provide details of facilities available.

Recommendation 11: That the Teaching and Learning Committee work with Faculties to devise guidelines for undergraduate students and postgraduate students undertaking coursework for professional editorial assistance permitted in preparing assignments, similar to those that apply to postgraduate research students.

Recommendation 12: That the Head of Human Resources and the Manager of Equity and Diversity seek the best means to ensure Central Administration, Faculty and School awareness of CELT training in English language skills available to staff.

Recommendation 13: That the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) liaise with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Director of the Centre of English Language Teaching for the development of a minor sequence of credit-bearing units in English language studies to be made available to approved undergraduate students who would benefit significantly from such learning.

Recommendation 14: That language immersion students studying at UWA under approved Student Exchange/Study Abroad agreements for degrees other than University of Western Australia degrees be exempt from normal UWA English language admission requirements and that the Admissions Committee determine appropriate entry requirements for such students.

Recommendation 15: That the Teaching and Learning Committee undertake a review of the application of penalties for plagiarism, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Recommendation 16: (a) That UWA, through the International Centre, the Teaching and Learning Committee, Student Services and contacts with the Guild investigate, encourage, and publicise ways to increase the extent of interaction between Australian and international students, including at Orientation, in order to enrich the student experience for all UWA students;

(b) That UWA encourage the Heads of College to seek a more proportionate distribution of international students in each individual college.