Can I waive the English Language (TOEFL or IELTS) requirement?

The language of instruction at MIT is English and *all* applicants must include proof of their English language proficiency in their application. The application features a section where you will enter the language of instruction for each stage of your education (Primary, Secondary, Undergraduate, Graduate.)

Please read these 4 ways to demonstrate your English language proficiency:

1. ‘Native English Speaker’. Applicant was born and raised in a country where English is the official language used and where schools are taught in English. Examples include the USA, United Kingdom, and Australia. (Country of birth and life-long residence.)

2. ‘Non-Native English Speaker’ who attended secondary schools and beyond with English as the language of instruction. Family may have moved to an English-speaking country or their ‘native country’ is bi-lingual or regularly conducts high school and undergraduate college studies in English. Examples include Canada, India, and many Asian and African countries. (Country of later school instruction.)

3. ‘Non-Native English Speaker’ who comes from a country where their primary and secondary education was conducted in a different language, but who has moved to a country where English is the language of instruction for their Bachelor studies. Applicants must have completed at least their full 3- or 4-year Bachelor degree in a school where English is the language of instruction. Examples include students from many European or South American countries who move to the USA, UK, Australia, etc. for their full undergraduate studies and will complete their Bachelor degree (and Master degree, if applicable) before starting their graduate studies.

4. Applicants who do not fit any of the above categories and who demonstrate their English language proficiency through TOEFL or IELTS standardized tests, including the remote or online versions. Applicants should include self-reported test scores with the application materials and provide official test scores if an acceptance offer is made. (Interviews may also be conducted.)

Note: The applicant should decide which of the above categories will best demonstrate their English language skills. We receive many hundreds of applications and English language proficiency is carefully assessed as part of our admissions selection process. If there is any lack of clarity in demonstrating your English skills, please consider taking the TOEFL or IELTS tests. Your application can include the unofficial, self-reported results from the remote on-line version and we will contact you if we need official scores sent.

The Physics Admissions committee may conduct video interviews as part of an English language assessment or when finalizing their decisions. All incoming non-native English speakers are required to demonstrate their language proficiency upon the start of their MIT studies.