

Language Fact Sheet and FAQ for CBS CEMS Applicants 2018

What are the minimum language requirements in order to apply to CEMS MIM at CBS?

When you apply to CEMS MIM at CBS, you will declare, at minimum, ability in **three languages**.

- Language 1: English mother tongue or proficiency at C1 level
- Language 2: Mother tongue or a *minimum* competency level of B2 oral /B1 written
- Language 3: Mother tongue or a *minimum* competency level of B1 oral/B1 written.
- You must provide proof of your language abilities when applying to the CEMS MIM at CBS.
- Documents submitted after the CEMS MIM application deadline will not be considered.
- If you are accepted into the programme, your declaration of mother tongue cannot be changed post acceptance.

What is the C1/B2/B1 level?

CEMS uses the Common European Framework of References (CEFR) for comparing language proficiency in languages. General information about the CEFR can be found [here](#).

You can find more detailed information, including a self-assessment grid, [here](#).

There are six levels on the CEFR scale, where levels C2 and C1 describe a proficient user; levels B2 and B1 an intermediate user; and levels A2 and A1 a basic user of a language. The highest level is C2 and the lowest level is A1.

Language 1: English – **minimum C1 level**

Fulfilled through:

- An English proficiency test through any of the following (minimum level):
 - CAE (Cambridge University, Certificate of Advanced English), with a grade of B or higher
 - CPE (The Certificate of Proficiency in English), with a grade of A, B or C
 - BEC (The Cambridge Business English Certificate), B or higher
 - IELTS Academic (International English Language Testing System), 7 or higher
 - TOEFL (ETS, Test of English as a Foreign Language), 100 or higher

No test required if:

- English is your mother tongue.
- You hold a complete Bachelor's or Master's degree taught entirely in English in an English-speaking country, e.g. UK; Canada; USA; Australia, etc. (Denmark does not count).

Note: A degree taught in English at CBS is not accepted.

IMPORTANT!**TOEFL/IELTS Academic – ONLY VALID FOR 2 YEARS**

[TOEFL](#) test results are valid for 2 years.

[IELTS](#) scores also have a 2-year validity period.

Therefore, many universities might not accept an IELTS or TOEFL test 2 years after it has been taken.

It is your responsibility to make sure you have a valid test.

Some CEMS partners will accept a test that is older than 2 years. However, some partners will not.

The bottom line:

You can submit an application to CEMS at CBS with a TOEFL/IELTS test result that is more than 2 years old. **However, you should be prepared to take a new test in case your CEMS exchange university requires a TOEFL/IELTS test that is less than 2 years old.**

Language 2: Must be a CEMS Language – **minimum B2 oral/B1 written level**

This language will be one of the following CEMS languages: Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Czech, Danish, Dutch/Afrikaans, Farsi/Tajik, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi/Urdu, Hungarian, Indonesian/Malay, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Montenegrin), Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Tamil, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese.

Language 3: any Language – **minimum B1 oral/B1 written level**

CEMS-APPROVED DOCUMENTATION

For **Language 2 and Language 3** you will submit proof of the required level of language competency, using CEMS-approved documentation.

Validity:

- **B2 language level** - Courses and Exams - Maximum 5 years before the start of the CEMS MIM Year.
- **B1 language level** - Courses and Exams - Maximum 2 years before the start of the CEMS MIM Year.

Fulfilled through:

- The language is your mother tongue.
- **A diploma/certificate of completion** from secondary school, a bachelor's degree or a master's degree, taught entirely in the target language.
- Completion of **the BLC Bachelor's degree at CBS**. You do not have to test in your foreign language (French, German, and Spanish).
- Completion of **the ASP Bachelor's degree at CBS**. You do not have to test in your foreign language (Chinese or Japanese).
- **CEMS accredited commercial tests** – B2 level (language 2) and B1 level (for language 3). You will have to find the test providers and test dates yourself.
- In-house test at a CEMS School – B2 oral/B1 written (language 2) and B1 oral/B1 written level (language 3). At CBS, it is the [Studieskolen test](#).
- Courses:
 - Selected CEMS approved language courses at CEMS Universities at the B2 level (language 2) or B1 level (language 3). Check with the CEMS partner university where you took the course and obtain a confirmation that the course is approved for the CEMS exit test at the necessary level. You will then provide this confirmation with your application.
 - **Note: B1 level courses passed at Bocconi University** are approved for the language 3 requirement. For your L3 language proof, submit a statement that you have completed an approved course at Bocconi, in addition to a copy of the relevant transcript page.
 - Commercial language courses at [accredited cultural institutes](#) at the minimum B2 level (language 2) or B1 level (language 3).

How do you define mother tongue?

You must be fully functional in both the spoken and written language, and normally this is your native language, or the language you have been educated in most of your life. If you declare a language

as a mother tongue, no test is required. If you declare a language as your mother tongue you must be able to answer affirmatively to the following:

- my written and speaking proficiency in this language is sufficient for conducting operations that are typical of business;
- I am confident that when speaking/corresponding with another person who is a native speaker of this language that I would be considered by that person to have a native-like level of fluency in this language.

A declaration regarding your mother tongue will be requested upon application to the CEMS MIM.

The CEMS language committee representative from CBS will review declarations of mother tongue. Any dubious submissions will be the subject of further investigation.

Are there any restrictions?

Certain combinations of similar languages will not be allowed to fulfil the requirement:

- Danish/Swedish/Norwegian
- Czech/Slovak,
- Catalan/Spanish
- Ukrainian/Belarusian/Russian
- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian/Montenegrin

I speak more than two foreign languages. Do I need to be tested in all my languages?

No, you only need to include proof of proficiency in the two foreign languages you wish to document for your CEMS application.

Please note that the JLPT test is offered at CBS. Please see more information here:

For information about the JLPT Japanese test see this [link](#).