



## Demonstrating Proficiency in English

Master's Program in Molecular Medicine  
Charité University Medical School, Berlin

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The Master's Program in Molecular Medicine is conducted entirely in English. Given the intensity and high level of the program, it is extremely important that applicants speak, understand, read, and write well in the language. And while many applicants have considerable experience in English, including academic and/or research experience at the university level, often they still have to take a language test. The reason for this is that in the past, despite prolific experience in the language, the quality of the language skills in accepted students was so poor that these students experienced great difficulty once they were in the program. Thus, the program has established relatively strict language requirements.

In order to find out if you need to take a language test, what kinds of language tests we accept, what scores we require, and how to report scores, please read the following document. We have worked hard to include as much information as possible in this document so that you should not need to contact us with further questions regarding language requirements. That said, if you do have a new question, it is very helpful for us to read and answer it; that way we can update our program materials, including this document, so that future students can benefit from the additional information.

If, after reading this document you have further questions, please write to:  
[admissions-molmed@charite.de](mailto:admissions-molmed@charite.de).

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### Topics Discussed in This Document

- Who Needs to Take a Language Test
    - Nationalities Exempt from Taking a Language Test
    - Language Test Waivers
  - Types of Language Tests Accepted
  - Minimum Score Requirements
  - Institutional Code for Automatic Submission of Scores
  - Due Date for Submitting Language Test Scores
  - Frequently Asked Questions
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## Who Needs to Take a Language Test

Generally speaking, all applicants to the program need to take a language test to demonstrate proficiency in the language. The reasons for this policy are explained above. The exceptions to the rule are students who hold a passport from, and/or completed **their entire** undergraduate education in one of the following countries:

- United States
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Republic of Ireland
- Australia

Students who studied for one year or less in one of the above named countries **do not qualify** for a language test waiver.

Students from other English speaking countries, such as India, Pakistan, Cameroon, or Kenya, **do not qualify** for a language test waiver.

Language test waivers are granted for applicants who completed their entire bachelor degree at University of Applied Sciences, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, or at Jacobs University in Bremen. If you attended another German university and your entire program was conducted in English, you may also qualify for a waiver. Otherwise, waivers are rarely granted. If, after reading this entire document, you are still not sure if you qualify for a language test waiver, please contact the admissions department at [admissions-molmed@charite.de](mailto:admissions-molmed@charite.de).

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## Types of Language Tests Accepted

In order to demonstrate a sufficient command of the English language applicants are advised to take the TOEFL exam, CAE (advanced level), or the IELTS exam (academic test, not the general test). Other types of language tests are rarely accepted. In addition, test results are only valid for two years prior to our application due date. The following web site gives information about the exam, as well as locations throughout the world where it can be taken.

<http://www.toefl.org>

When registering for the TOEFL exam, students have the option to enter institution codes so that their scores will automatically be sent to the schools where they would like to apply. The institution code for the Master's Program in Molecular Medicine at the Charité is 7246. The department code is 74 or 99.



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### Minimum Score Requirements

<u>Test Type</u>	<u>Minimum Score Requirement</u>
TOEFL, internet based	92
TOEFL, computer based	237
TOEFL, paper based	580
IELTS (academic, not general)	6.5
CAE (advanced level)	Grade B

### Institutional Code for Automatic Submission of Scores

When registering for the TOEFL exam, students have the option to enter institution codes so that their scores will automatically be sent to the schools where they would like to apply. The institution code for the master's program in molecular medicine at the Charité is 7246 and the department code is 74 or 99.

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### Due Date for Submitting Language Test Scores

Applicants are advised to submit their language test scores with their applications. If this is not possible you may submit your application without a language test score. However, applications without a score are at a slight disadvantage compared to an application of similar quality that does have a score.

If you are accepted to our program without having submitted a language test score, your acceptance will be conditional upon receipt of a score at or above our required test score minimum. This score must be delivered to us by August 1st or your conditional acceptance may be revoked. Official scores may be scanned and sent electronically via email, or copies may be sent by regular post. However, original documentation must be shown on the first day of the program (usually October 4th). Original documentation will be copied and returned immediately.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have taken many classes in English. Do I still need to take a language test?
2. How do I make sure my scores reach you?
3. One (or both) of my parents is a native English speaker. Do I still need to take a language test?
4. I spent time abroad working in an English speaking laboratory. Do I still need to take a language test?
5. English is the official language of my country. Do I still need to take a language test?
6. I am an international applicant with significant experience living and studying in English. I would like to know if I qualify for a language test waiver. How do I find an answer to this question?
7. What if my scores will become available only after the application for your program is due? Can I still apply?
8. I have a question about the language test that is not answered in this document. Is it okay if I write to the program and ask?
9. I took a language test two years ago and just a few weeks prior to your application due date. Is my score still valid?

## Answers

### **1. I have taken many classes in English. Do I still need to take a language test?**

Yes. Even if you have taken special courses in English, or spent several semesters studying only in English and feel yourself to be fluent in the language, you still have to take the language test. The exceptions to the rule are students who hold a passport from, and/or completed **their entire** undergraduate education in one of the following countries: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Australia.

### **2. How do I make sure my scores reach you?**

When registering for the TOEFL exam, students have the option to enter institution codes so that their scores will automatically be sent to the schools where they would like to apply. The

institution code for the Master's Program in Molecular Medicine at the Charité is 7246. The department code is 74 or 99.

Once you have received your scores, they may be scanned and sent electronically via email to [admissions-molmed@charite.de](mailto:admissions-molmed@charite.de) or copies may be sent by regular post. However, original documentation must be shown on the first day of the program (usually October 4th). Original documentation will be copied and returned immediately.

**3. One (or both) of my parents is a native English speaker. Do I still need to take a language test?**

Yes, you still need to take the language test. Exceptions may be granted if you also studied at the university level in North America or the U.K. for several years. However, working in one of these countries, even if it was in a laboratory situation, does not qualify you for a waiver.

**4. I spent some time abroad working in an English speaking laboratory. Do I still need to take a language test?**

Yes, you still need to take a language test. Working in a country, even if it was in a scientific or academic context is not considered the same as having to write exams and be evaluated in English. The exceptions to the rule are students who completed **their entire** undergraduate education in one of the following countries: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Australia.

**5. English is the official language of my country. Do I still need to take a language test?**

Yes, you still have to take the language test, unless you carry a passport from one of the following countries: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Australia. Many of our applicants come from countries where English is the official language and part or all of their education was conducted in English. Nevertheless, the English of these students is often not up to the standards that we require for our program. Consequently, we still require the language test to be taken.

**6. What if my scores will become available only after the application for your program is due? Can I still apply?**

Yes, you can still apply. The admissions committee will evaluate your application without the score and assume that you will be able to achieve the minimum score requirement. If you are accepted, it will be under the condition that you will supply a qualifying score before the program begins.

**7. I have a question about the language test that is not answered in this document. Is it okay if I write to the program and ask?**



Yes, please do ask. Your questions will help us to update this document so that other students in the future will also benefit from the additional information. Send your questions to [admissions-molmed@charite.de](mailto:admissions-molmed@charite.de).

**8. I took a language test two years ago and just a few weeks prior to your application due date. Is my score still valid?**

No, any scores from test dates two years prior to the exact due date of our application will not be valid. This holds true even if you took the test one day before the two year expiration date. While we recognize that one day, obviously, should not make any difference in your language ability, we nevertheless must draw the line somewhere.