

ANMAC-Level English: Meeting and Evidencing the English Standard

Programme syllabus

DOCUMENT CONTROL

- Programme: ANMAC-Level English: Meeting and Evidencing the English Standard (OBA-ELS-2026)
- Audience: Programme documentation - facilitators, admissions staff and education managers
- Version 1.0 | Issued 23/09/2026 | Review due 23/03/2027
- Provider: OBA Nursing Academy

SCOPE, CURRENCY AND THE LIMIT OF THIS PROGRAMME

- This programme is preparation and professional development. It sets out what ANMAC and the National Boards publish about English language requirements as at the date of issue, with the source and the date each was checked. It is NOT migration advice, NOT legal advice, and NOT a guarantee of a test result. It cannot tell you which pathway you satisfy, which test you should sit, whether your existing result will be accepted, or what score you will achieve. Those depend on your own history and documents, and they are decisions for you, for ANMAC, for the Board and - where a visa is involved - for the Department of Home Affairs and a registered migration agent.
- CONTENT VERIFIED 23/09/2026 DIRECTLY FROM THE PUBLISHING REGULATORS. English language skills registration standard, approved by the Ministerial Council 14 November 2024, and the Accepted English language tests page carrying Table 1 and Table 2 - both Ahpra, on behalf of the National Boards. ANMAC minimum scores from the Full skills assessment page and the ANMAC FAQs. THE NATIONAL BOARDS CHANGED THE MINIMUM SCORES ON 23 APRIL 2026 AND ANMAC PUBLISHES THE EARLIER SET. Check both sources yourself before you book a test: this is the fastest-moving requirement in the whole registration pathway.

WHY THIS DOCUMENT IS REVIEWED EVERY SIX MONTHS

- The National Boards changed their published minimum scores on 23 April 2026, five months before this programme was issued, and ANMAC publishes a different set. Two moving figures from two publishers is not something an annual review cycle can hold.
- Before you rely on any score in this document, open the publishing body's own page and check the figure against the one printed here - and write down the date you looked.

What this programme is

An internationally qualified nurse coming to Australia has to satisfy an English requirement twice: ANMAC assesses skills for migration, and the Nursing and Midwifery Board sets the standard for registration. The National Boards changed their minimum scores on 23 APRIL 2026, and as at the date of issue ANMAC publishes the earlier set. Only IELTS is identical between the two. This programme sets out what each body publishes, which of the four pathways applies to you, what

the five accepted tests require component by component, how two sittings and the IELTS One Skill Retake work, how long a result lasts and the two ways of extending it - and then works each of the four skills at the band the standard actually requires.

THREE BODIES, THREE REQUIREMENTS, NOT INTERCHANGEABLE

- ANMAC - Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council. Assesses your SKILLS for MIGRATION purposes. Its English requirement is part of a full skills assessment. Publishes its own minimum scores on its Full skills assessment page and in its FAQs.
- The NMBA, with the other National Boards - Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Sets the English language skills registration standard for REGISTRATION. The standard was approved by the Ministerial Council on 14 November 2024, and the minimum scores in it were updated on 23 APRIL 2026.
- The Department of Home Affairs - DHA. A THIRD requirement, for the VISA. Different thresholds for different purposes - functional, vocational, competent, proficient, superior. This programme names the layer and does not state a DHA score, because those were not read from the DHA source in this build.

Programme parameters

Item	Detail
Code	OBA-ELS-2026
Title	ANMAC-Level English: Meeting and Evidencing the English Standard
Version / issued / review due	1.0 23/09/2026 23/03/2027
Modules	11
CPD hours	7.0
Summative assessment	60 items, 80% pass mark, 2 attempts
Case study assessment	5 unfolding case studies, 25 decision steps
Delivery	Self-paced online, with an optional facilitated workshop
Audience	Internationally qualified nurses and midwives preparing for registration, and the admissions staff, advisers, agents and teaching staff who support them

How the CPD hours were measured

The hours are measured, not asserted. Each module's figure is the sum of its measured segment times; the programme figure adds the programme-level reading and the assessment, and is then rounded to the nearest half hour.

Component	Minutes
Module content (11 modules)	256
Programme-level reading	92
Summative assessment and case studies	86
Total	434

Stated CPD hours	7.0
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THE FIGURE IS TAKEN FROM THE CONTENT, NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND

- The measured total is 434 minutes, which is 7.23 hours. The nearest half hour is 7.0.
- The rounding goes to the NEAREST half hour, including downwards. The remedy for a CPD figure you would like to be higher is to ADD CONTENT, never to change the number.

Modules

#	Title	Time	Outcomes
Module 00	Orientation: Two Bodies, Two Published Numbers	24 min	6
Module 01	Do You Need a Test at All? The Four Pathways	25 min	6
Module 02	The Five Accepted Tests, and the Sentence About Difficulty	21 min	6
Module 03	The Numbers: Table 1, Table 2, and 23 April 2026	25 min	7
Module 04	ANMAC and the National Boards: Meet the Higher	26 min	7
Module 05	Sittings, Floors, the One Skill Retake, and Validity	25 min	7
Module 06	Listening at Band: What the Required Score Asks You to Do	20 min	6
Module 07	Reading at Band: Speed, Scanning, and the Question Behind the Question	19 min	6
Module 08	Writing: The Threshold That Moved	20 min	6
Module 09	Speaking: Now the Hardest Component on Two Tests	22 min	6
Module 10	Booking, Evidence, and What to Check Before You Pay	29 min	6

Learning outcomes, by module

Module 00 - Orientation: Two Bodies, Two Published Numbers

- Name the three bodies and say what each one's English requirement is for
- State when the National Boards' minimum scores changed
- Explain why a single number quoted as 'the English requirement' is not usable
- State the practical rule where the two published requirements differ
- State what this programme is not, and whose decision each question is
- Locate the twelve questions this programme cannot answer for you

Module 01 - Do You Need a Test at All? The Four Pathways

- Name the four pathways and state which one applies where no education was in a recognised country
- State the education requirement in each of the three education pathways
- Explain the difference between the combined and school education pathways
- State the two-year deadline in the advanced education pathway
- Use the recognised country list rather than assuming
- State what 'secondary education' means for the purposes of the standard

Module 02 - The Five Accepted Tests, and the Sentence About Difficulty

- Name the five accepted tests
- State the correct version of each, and the two that carry a booking trap
- State the rule on at-home and remotely proctored testing, and its one exception
- Quote the National Boards' position on relative difficulty
- List the factors that DO make one test a better fit than another
- State which National Board is the exception to the common requirement

Module 03 - The Numbers: Table 1, Table 2, and 23 April 2026

- State which table applies to a test taken on a given date
- Read Table 2 and state the required score for each component of each test
- State what happens where two sittings straddle 23 April 2026
- Explain why the scores changed, and what the Boards say did NOT change
- Identify the hardest component on each test under Table 2
- State the two features of the OET line that differ from every other test
- Explain why a candidate who prepared on Table 1 may have prepared the wrong component

Module 04 - ANMAC and the National Boards: Meet the Higher

- Name the three bodies with an English requirement and state what each one is for
- State where ANMAC's published scores and the Boards' Table 2 differ, test by test
- Apply the meet-the-higher rule component by component
- State what this programme will NOT assert about the difference, and why
- Cite a requirement as which body, which page, which date
- Locate each rule in the programme at the source that carries it
- State why the DHA visa requirement is named but not quoted here

Module 05 - Sittings, Floors, the One Skill Retake, and Validity

- State the rule on the number of sittings, the interval, and the provider
- Explain what a floor is and how it differs from a pass threshold
- State what the IELTS One Skill Retake is, and the two things it is not
- State when a test result is valid, and from which date time runs
- State the two circumstances in which an older result is still accepted
- Define 'continuously working' in the terms the standard uses
- State what to check before paying for a second test

Module 06 - Listening at Band: What the Required Score Asks You to Do

- State the required listening score on each accepted test
- Say where listening sits relative to the other components on your test
- Identify the three listening failures that cost marks for non-linguistic reasons
- Practise holding information across a long turn without re-reading
- Distinguish a test listening task from clinical listening on the ward
- State what a preparation provider cannot tell you about your likely score

Module 07 - Reading at Band: Speed, Scanning, and the Question Behind the Question

- State the required reading score on each accepted test
- Say where reading sits relative to the other components on your test
- Explain why careful clinical reading habits cost marks in a timed test
- Read the question before the passage, and say why
- Recognise paraphrase as the mechanism most reading items are built on
- State what a preparation provider cannot tell you about your likely score

Module 08 - Writing: The Threshold That Moved

- State the required writing score on each accepted test
- Say where writing sits relative to the other components on your test
- Explain why the old 'writing is the soft component' advice survives only on IELTS
- State what the OET writing task is, and how it differs from an academic essay
- Identify the errors that cost a nurse marks in writing at this level
- State what a preparation provider cannot tell you about your likely score

Module 09 - Speaking: Now the Hardest Component on Two Tests

- State the required speaking score on each accepted test
- State the size of the gap between speaking and the overall requirement on PTE and Cambridge C1
- Distinguish machine-scored from examiner-scored speaking
- Explain why a fluent clinical speaker can underperform on a speaking test
- Identify what to practise for speaking at this level
- State what a preparation provider cannot tell you about your likely score

Module 10 - Booking, Evidence, and What to Check Before You Pay

- Identify ten claims that should trigger a check, and name the source that settles each
- Work the six-step decision method in order on a real enquiry
- State which actions are yours and which belong to a regulator
- Name the rows that read NO for every role
- Locate each rule in this programme at its published source
- Answer the twelve local questions for your own situation

Where the rules live

This table is the programme's spine. Each row is something a candidate has to satisfy, and the published source that carries it.

The rule	The source	Note
The four pathways, and who needs a test	ELS registration standard (Ahpra, for the National Boards)	Approved by the Ministerial Council 14 November 2024.
The list of recognised countries	ELS registration standard, Definitions	Thirty countries and territories, and the Boards may add or revoke.
Which tests are accepted	ELS registration standard, Appendix one	Five tests, plus NZREX and PLAB for the Medical Board only.
The minimum scores for REGISTRATION	Accepted English language tests page - Table 1 and Table 2	Table 1 for tests on or before 22/04/2026; Table 2 on or after 23/04/2026.
The minimum scores for the ANMAC SKILLS ASSESSMENT	ANMAC Full skills assessment page and ANMAC FAQs	Published separately by ANMAC. As at 23/09/2026 these are not the same as Table 2.
Two sittings, floors and the One Skill Retake	ELS standard and the Accepted tests page	One sitting, or two within a 12-month period, same provider.
Validity, and the two ways past two years	Accepted English language tests page	Two years before lodgement; continuous work or continuous study, then lodge within 12 months.
The visa English requirement	Department of Home Affairs	A separate requirement for a separate purpose. NOT stated in this programme - check it for your own visa subclass.

The two tables

TABLE 1 APPLIES TO A TEST TAKEN ON OR BEFORE 22 APRIL 2026. TABLE 2 APPLIES TO A TEST TAKEN ON OR AFTER 23 APRIL 2026. The date that matters is the date you SAT the test, not the date you apply. And if you are relying on two sittings that straddle the line, each test is measured against the table for its own date: the first against Table 1, the second against Table 2.

Table 1 - tests taken on or before 22 April 2026

Test	Overall	Components
Cambridge (C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency)	185	185 for listening, reading and speaking; 176 for writing
IELTS Academic	7	7 for listening, reading and speaking; 6.5 for writing
OET	-	B for listening, reading and speaking; C+ for writing
PTE Academic	66	66 for listening, reading and

		speaking; 56 for writing
TOEFL iBT	94	24 for listening, 24 for reading, 24 for writing, 23 for speaking

Table 2 - tests taken on or after 23 April 2026

Test	Overall	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
Cambridge C1 Advanced	178	175	179	180	194
Cambridge C2 Proficiency	185	185	185	176	185
IELTS Academic	7	7	7	6.5	7
OET	N/a	350	360	350	360
PTE Academic	63	58	59	60	76
TOEFL iBT	91	22	22	23	24

THE FINDING, AND WHAT THIS PROGRAMME WILL NOT DO WITH IT

- AS AT THE DATE OF ISSUE, ANMAC AND THE NATIONAL BOARDS DO NOT PUBLISH THE SAME NUMBERS. The Boards updated their minimum scores on 23 April 2026; ANMAC's published figures match the earlier set. Only IELTS Academic is identical between the two. On PTE Academic the Boards now require SPEAKING 76 against an overall of 63, where ANMAC publishes 66 across listening, reading and speaking - so a candidate who prepares to ANMAC's published numbers can hit every one of them and still not meet the registration standard on speaking.
- WHAT THIS PROGRAMME WILL NOT DO. It will not tell you that ANMAC's numbers are wrong, out of date or superseded. From outside it is not possible to know whether ANMAC maintains its own requirement deliberately or has not yet republished, and guessing about a regulator's intention is how a candidate books the wrong test. What the programme does instead: it states both, verbatim, each with its source and the date it was checked. THE PRACTICAL RULE IS TO MEET THE HIGHER OF THE TWO ON EVERY COMPONENT, and to confirm the current requirement with ANMAC and with the Board before you book and pay.

Assessment

Two instruments. The summative paper is 60 multiple-choice items blueprinted across the eleven modules; the case study assessment is 5 unfolding case studies with 25 decision steps, each option carrying feedback. The pass mark is 80% and there are 2 attempts.

Module	Items
Module 00	5
Module 01	6
Module 02	5
Module 03	7
Module 04	7
Module 05	7
Module 06	5
Module 07	5
Module 08	5
Module 09	5
Module 10	3
Total	60

Twenty of the keyed rationales are marked MANDATORY-CORRECT. Those are the statements the programme will not have a learner leave holding wrongly, and each of the eleven modules contributes at least one.

What this programme does not do

- It is not migration advice, not legal advice, and not a guarantee of a result.
- It does not decide which of the four pathways an applicant satisfies. That turns on documents the programme has not seen and is the Board's decision.
- It does not tell a candidate which test to sit, and it does not rank the tests by difficulty - the National Boards say expressly that none of them is easier.
- It does not confirm whether a particular existing result will be accepted.
- It does not state a Department of Home Affairs visa English score. That layer is named and the candidate is sent to check their own subclass.
- It does not assert an equivalence between OET letter grades and OET numerical scores.
- It does not say that ANMAC's published scores are wrong or out of date.
- And it does not reproduce any test provider's marking rubric.

SUPPORT - FOR YOU

- Nurse & Midwife Support - 1800 667 877. 24 hours, seven days. Free and confidential, for nurses, midwives and students - including internationally qualified nurses working through registration.
- Lifeline - 13 11 14. 24 hours, seven days. National crisis support.
- You may stop this programme at any point and come back. Nothing is timed and there is no penalty.