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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.12.2025)

While the Commission supports initiatives enhancing academic mobility, admission requirements, including language certifications, are determined at national level. This is in line with Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union¹, which places responsibility for the organisation of education systems with Member States. As such, universities in Member States have the autonomy to set their own admission criteria, including language proficiency standards, as long as they comply with EU law.

In accordance with the above, and in line with the principle of institutional autonomy, universities in Member States may therefore require students to demonstrate their proficiency to enrol in English taught courses².

In addition, the recognition of academic qualifications primarily rests with national authorities. The Commission remains committed to strengthening recognition within the EU, while respecting the Member States' competences, through non-binding instruments.

Regarding exemptions for alumni of English-taught courses, while the Commission continues to work towards facilitating student mobility and improving accessibility, it primarily operates by encouraging best practices across the EU or offering other relevant support. For example, students selected to go abroad with the Erasmus+ might undergo a free online language support test, which determines their proficiency in various languages, including English. Additionally, after such assessment students have access to a personalised language learning pathway.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A12016ME%2FTXT>.

² <https://education.ec.europa.eu/news/prepare-to-prove-your-english-language-skills-with-some-courses-of-study-in-europe>.