



English Language Proficiency Verification Requirement for J-1 Exchange Visitors

Effective January 5, 2015, the US Department of State (DOS) is requiring that all prospective/new exchange visitors coming to US universities in J-1 status demonstrate sufficient English proficiency and documentation before the university may issue the DS-2019 documentation needed to bring the scholar here and to participate in his or her program on a day-to-day basis. The program sponsor must verify an applicant's English language proficiency using one of the following accepted procedures.

OPTION 1: Native Speaker: Applicant may submit evidence of citizenship of a country whose official language is English.

Option 2: Recognized English Language Test

Applicants must show evidence of having obtained the minimum required scores on a recognized English language test.

Language Assessment	Minimum Score
TOEFL iBT	57
TOEFL PBT	500
IELTS	5.0
TOEIC L&R	275
TOEIC S&W	120
Cambridge ESOL Examinations	PET
Pearson Test of English	2 Intermediate

Option 3: Completion of Bachelor's or Higher Degree Where English is the Language of Instruction

Applicants who have completed a bachelor's or graduate degree at a recognized institution of higher learning in the U.S. or another country where English is the primary/official language may use this option. Applicant must submit a copy of their diploma with the DS-2019 application materials.

Option 4: Documented English Proficiency Interview

J-1 English Proficiency Interview Assessment Report from an interview conducted in English by the program sponsor with the prospective exchange visitor. The interview can be conducted in person, via Skype or other videoconferencing method, or if videoconferencing is not available, telephone.

At this time, ISS understands that the English requirement applies only to prospective J-1 exchange visitors, and we do not require Continuing Scholar requests (i.e. extensions) to fulfill the requirement.