

# English Language Proficiency Requirement

For incoming J-1 exchange visitors

The U.S. Department of State's Exchange Visitor Program was created to promote educational and cultural exchange between citizens of the U.S. and those of other countries.

"The Department believes that not only is an exchange visitor's success in his or her particular program dependent upon sufficient English language capability, but good English communication skills are essential to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of exchange visitors." [Federal Register Supplementary Information section on General Provisions of 22 CFR Part 62]

**Requirement:** [22 CFR 62.10 (a) (2)]: The exchange visitor possesses sufficient proficiency in English language, as determined by an objective measurement of English language proficiency, successfully to participate in his or her program and to function on a day-to-day basis. A sponsor must verify an applicant's English proficiency through one of the following:

1. A recognized English language test;
2. By signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school; or
3. Through a documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option.

## What recognized English language tests are available to international persons?

Examples include:

- IELTS ([www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)),
- TOEFL ([www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)), and
- MTELP (<http://www.michigan-test.com/mtelp-english-language-proficiency>).

## Examples of signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school:

- A certificate of completion of English language course from institution or business which contains name, address, website address, and information for contacting the school (telephone and email).
- A letter from faculty at university or college stating candidate possesses sufficient English language skills to converse with native English speakers at a level that ensures successful participation in a U.S exchange program, enabling them to understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections; and to know how to obtain assistance.

## Documenting an interview:

Send a written and dated statement or email to International Programs containing:

- The date and time of the interview
- Name of the interviewer and interviewee
- Signature of interviewer
- I have interviewed <name> on <date at <time> and verify that they possess proficient English language skills to successfully participate in his or her program and to function on a day-to-day basis, including to understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections; and to know how to obtain assistance.

WSU departments submitting a J-1 scholar request form must include one of the above documents with all J-1 scholar or student intern requests. See: <http://ip.wsu.edu/depts/hosting/scholars/forms-and-FAQ.html>