



J-1 Exchange Visitor Program- English Language Proficiency Documentation

An objective measurement of sufficient English language proficiency is required for J-1 Exchange Visitors, including Research Scholars, Short-Term Scholars, and/or Student Interns. Please complete this form to demonstrate that the invited J-1 Exchange Visitor meets the Code of Federal Regulations English language proficiency requirements outlined on page 3.

Exchange Visitor’s Full Name (Last, First and Middle):

Acceptable Measurements of Sufficient English Language Proficiency (please select the method used):

- Recognized English language test conducted by IELTS, TOEFL, PTE, or Duolingo (please provide a copy of test results)
 Test Name: _____ Overall Score: _____
- Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school (provide a copy)
 Name of Institution: _____
 Name of Signing Official: _____
 Title of Signing Official: _____
- A documented interview conducted by the program sponsor or designated third party. Acceptable methods for conducting the interview are videoconferencing or by phone. (please provide copy or recording)
 Date of Interview: _____
 Name of Interviewer: _____
 Method of Interview: _____

Exchange Visitor English Proficiency Checklist:

This section must be completed accurately and objectively by the program sponsor or third-party designee. A Form DS-2019 will be issued only to those Exchange Visitors that meet the measurement of sufficient English language proficiency as outlined by the Code of Federal Regulations.

Criteria	Level of Proficiency		
Please indicate the level of proficiency exhibited by the Exchange Visitor for each category.	Sufficient Proficiency	Limited Proficiency	Insufficient Proficiency
Demonstrated understanding of questions asked.			
Developed answers of at least two-three minutes in response to multiple, open-ended questions and behavior questions about academic topics.			
Demonstrated sufficient proficiency in research-oriented writing.			
Demonstrated sufficient proficiency in reading materials and communication strategies.			

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program- English Language Proficiency Documentation

Program sponsors must ensure that the Exchange Visitors they are inviting to participate as research scholars, short-term scholars, and/or student interns have the education and credentials necessary to carry out the activity for which they are entering the United States and that they have sufficient proficiency in the English language to function in an English-speaking environment.

Exchange visitors who violate the regulations of the Exchange Visitor Program or the program sponsor's rules governing the program may be subject to termination of their SEVIS status and J-1 privileges. Sufficient English language proficiency is a requirement of the Exchange Visitor Program.

Sponsor Attestation:

As the program sponsor or sponsor's third-party designee, I attest that I interviewed the Exchange Visitor, whose name is listed on page 1 of this document, for the purpose of assessing their level of English language proficiency. While interviewing the Exchange Visitor I applied fair and consistent criteria that meet the Department of State guidelines. The level of English proficiency assigned to this Exchange Visitor was determined objectively and without partiality or bias based on the Code of Federal Regulations criteria listed on page 3.

I acknowledge that this Exchange Visitor's SEVIS record and J-1 privileges may be terminated if they are found to have insufficient English language proficiency and cannot participate in their designated program or function in an English-speaking environment.

Printed Name of Sponsor or Third-Party Designee: _____

Signature of Sponsor or Third-Party Designee: _____

Date of Signature: _____

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program- English Language Proficiency Documentation

The completed Code of Federal Regulations regarding part 62 of the Exchange Visitor Program can be reviewed at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-22/chapter-1/subchapter-G/part-62>.

Basic Criteria for Selecting a Prospective Exchange Visitor

A program sponsor "must establish and utilize a method to screen and select prospective exchange visitors to ensure that they are eligible for program participation."

22 CFR 62.10(a)

(a) *Selection of exchange visitors.* Sponsors must establish and utilize a method to screen and select prospective exchange visitors to ensure that they are eligible for program participation, and that:

- (1) The program is suitable to the exchange visitor's background, needs, and experience; and
- (2) The exchange visitor possesses sufficient proficiency in the 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 language proficiency through a recognized English language test, by signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school, or through a documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option.

This also relates to a regulatory condition for issuing Form DS-2019, which specifies that the sponsor must verify that the prospective exchange visitor "is eligible and qualified for, and accepted into, the program in which he or she will participate."

Determining English Proficiency of Prospective Exchange Visitors

A program sponsor must verify and document that a prospective exchange visitor possesses sufficient proficiency in the English language "successfully to participate in his or her program and to function on a day-to-day basis." The sponsor must make this determination by using an "objective measurement of English language proficiency," and must keep documentation on how the English language proficiency determination was made.

Authority Cite- 22 CFR 62.10(a)(2)

(2) The exchange visitor possesses sufficient proficiency in the 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 language proficiency through a recognized English language test, by signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school, or through a documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option.

Practice Note

Note that the prospective exchange visitor's English proficiency must allow not only successful participation in his or her program, but also allow him or her to "function on a day-to-day basis." In the preamble to the Subpart A final rule [79 FR 60294, [60301](#) (October 6, 2014)], the Department of State discussed its rationale for renewed focus on English language proficiency:

"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. Moreover, the Department continues to find that too many exchange visitors lack sufficient English proficiency to perform their jobs or complete their academic programs; to navigate daily life in the United States; to read and comprehend program materials; to understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections; and to know how to obtain assistance, if necessary. Accordingly the Department adopts a modified version of the regulatory language governing the Trainee and Intern categories as the program-wide standard for determining the English language proficiency of exchange visitors. The Department reminds sponsors to retain evidence of how they measured applicants' English language proficiency so that it may be made available to the Department upon request."

Methodology

Sponsors are required to use one of three methods to verify the sufficiency of "an applicant's English language proficiency" and to satisfy the "objective measurement" requirement:

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

The regulations do not specify methodological details. Sponsors do have some discretion but must ensure that the methods they use to verify English language proficiency, as well as the documentation they retain, clearly satisfy the regulations.