



J-1 English Proficiency Requirement

The U.S. Department of State mandated that J-1 exchange visitors including short-term scholars, research scholars, professors, specialists, and student interns have sufficient English proficiency [[22 CFR §62.10(a)(2)].

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 English proficiency measurement to successfully participate in his or her program and to function successfully on a day-to-day basis.

To comply with this regulation, host faculty must submit documentation of a prospective J-1 scholar’s English proficiency as part of the DS-2019 request process. The ISSS Office will not issue a DS-2019 without proof of English proficiency.

METHODS TO DETERMINE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY:

According to the code of federal regulations, 22 CFR 62.10(a)(2), we 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,”** (see below for test score requirements per school).

Simmons	TOEFL 580 OR 92	IELTS 6.5	
Lyle	TOEFL: 59 (Listening, reading and writing)	IELTS: 6.5	
Law	TOEFL: 575	IELTS	
Dedman	TOEFL: 80	IELTS: 6.5	
Cox	TOEFL: 100	IELTS: 7.5	PTE: 68
Meadows	TOEFL: 100	IELTS: 7.0	

2. **“Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school,”**
 - 4) A signed letter from an academic institution or English language school that is internationally recognized indicating prospective exchange visitor’s level of English proficiency. The letter must be: 1) dated within the last two years; 2) state the dates when the potential scholar attended the institution or school; and 3) affirm that the prospective exchange visitor achieved at least.
3. **“A documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option”**

J-1 English Proficiency Interview Assessment: If the exchange visitor needs an interview assessment as proof of English proficiency, the interview can be conducted by English3. English3 is a professional provider that are experts in interviewing exchange visitors with the purpose of demonstrating their English proficiency. After

the interview is conducted, a final score and interview transcripts will be available to the hosting department and to the ISSS Office. There is a \$99.00 fee for the interview that the exchange visitor will be responsible for.

If you have any questions about English3, please contact Tracy Tanner: tracy.tanner@english3.com

If the hosting wants to conduct the interview, we would require an assessment report. The interview must be conducted by a native English speaker.

The interview should address the content area of the proposed J-1 program and include the following questions:

- Please share a little about your previous experiences traveling and/or living abroad. If you have not traveled outside your home country, please share a little about what you will do to prepare for your time in the U.S.
- What motivated you to pursue a research position at the Southern Methodist University?
- What do you think will be the most challenging aspect of living and working in the U.S.?
- How do you think that the time you spend at the Southern Methodist University will benefit you personally and professionally?

The interview should be assessed according to the TOEFL Independent Speak Rubric Scoring Standards: https://www.ets.org/s/toefl/pdf/toefl_speaking_rubrics.pdf

In addition to selecting one of these three methods, you may also supplement with the following documentation to further prove their English Proficiency:

4. Proof of having graduated from a U.S. Higher Institution (attach copies of transcripts)
 - a. If an exchange visitor has graduated with a bachelor's degree from a U.S. Higher Institution, their transcripts will serve as proof of English proficiency.
5. Previous appointments as an Exchange Visitor (attach copies of previous DS-2019)
6. Other: Professional publications printed in English or written research work. If other, scholar must also conduct an Interview Assessment.