

English Proficiency Policy for J-1 Exchange Visitors

Revised 07/01/2020

22 C.F.R. § 62.10, which regulates a J Exchange Visitor sponsors responsibilities regarding program administration, has been revised to require proof of English language proficiency for all J-1 Short-Term Scholars, Research Scholars, Professors, Specialists, and Student Interns sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver. This revised regulation went into effect on January 5, 2015.

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.

To comply with this new regulation, ISSS will now require proof that a potential scholar meets the English language proficiency requirement. The requirement may be satisfied in one of five ways:

Schedule an English language interview with the potential scholar through the University of Colorado Denver ESL Academy. The interview will be conducted via Skype or other videoconferencing method and an interview report will be generated. The fee for this service is \$150 and should be paid on-line here:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20369_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=115

- 1) Interviews can then be scheduled through the online system after submitting payment. Make sure to choose ELP Assessment.
- 2) For any scholar who is a faculty member at a foreign institution of higher education at the Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor rank, we can accept a report of an interview conducted by the faculty sponsor either in-person, by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option. This interview does not have to include a specific set of questions, but the report must include the following:
 - a. Date of the interview;
 - b. Name and title of the person conducting the interview;
 - c. The faculty rank of the invited scholar at his/her home institution;
 - d. The name of the scholar's home institution; and
 - e. Responses to the following questions:
 - Is this person proficient in verbal English sufficient to participate in the research proposed at the University of Colorado Denver? Y/N

International Student and Scholar Services

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- Have they published scientific manuscripts in English? Y/N
 - If yes, how many? _____
- 3) Submit scores from one of the following English language tests (selected because they include a speaking/listening component), taken within the last two years and meeting the stated minimum score.

English Language Test	Minimum Score	Website
TOEFL iBT	15 on Speaking and Listening Sections	https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about
IELTS	5 on Speaking and Listening Sections	http://www.ielts.org/
Cambridge English: First (FCE)	Pass	http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/first/
Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)	Pass	http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/advanced/
TOEIC	Combined Score of 550	https://www.ets.org/toEIC
DUOLINGO ENGLISH TEST	75 on 160-point scale (test dates starting July 15, 2019) OR 23 on 100-point scale (test dates prior to July 15, 2019)	https://englishtest.duolingo.com/edu

- 4) Submit a signed letter from an academic institution or English language school that is internationally recognized by IALC or other recognized entity. The letter must be dated within the last two years and must state the dates when the potential scholar attended the institution or school. The letter must also affirm that the scholar achieved at least intermediate level skills, the equivalent of a B-2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Language or CEFR, in English language speaking and listening.
- 5) In cases where the prospective exchange visitor is a citizen of a country whose official language is English, we can accept a report of an interview conducted by the faculty sponsor either in-person, by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option. These countries include Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom.

This interview does not have to include a specific set of questions, but the report must include the following:

- a. Date of the interview;
- b. Name and title of the person conducting the interview;
- c. The position of the invited scholar in his/her home country (e.g., Ph.D. Candidate, Research Associate, Laboratory Director, Assistant Professor, etc.); and
- d. An assessment of whether the prospective exchange visitor is proficient in verbal English sufficient to participate in the J program activities proposed at the

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- 6) In cases where the prospective exchange visitor is a graduate of a university where the instruction has been conducted in English and the degree has been completed within the past 2 years, we can accept a report of an interview conducted by the faculty sponsor either in-person, by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option. Please make sure to submit a copy of the diploma and transcript showing course instruction in English along with the interview report.

This interview does not have to include a specific set of questions, but the report must include the following:

- e. Date of the interview;
- f. Name and title of the person conducting the interview;
- g. The position of the invited scholar in his/her home country (e.g., Ph.D. Candidate, Research Associate, Laboratory Director, Assistant Professor, etc.); and
- h. An assessment of whether the prospective exchange visitor is proficient in verbal English sufficient to participate in the J program activities proposed at the University of Colorado Denver or University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

As a cross-check on these assessment methods, ISSS staff will develop standard questions that we will ask during the mandatory J Check-In, whether group or individual, to verify that our incoming J scholars do in fact have adequate English language proficiency to successfully participate in their program and “function on a day-to-day basis.”

As English language proficiency is now an eligibility requirement for participation in an Exchange Visitor program, a failure to adequately meet the requirement is sufficient reason for ISSS to refuse to issue a DS-2019 or to terminate a scholar’s J program.

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