



English Proficiency Requirement J-1 Scholars

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

- (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.

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. A DS-2019 will not be issued without valid documentation.

The English Proficiency Requirement can be satisfied by submitting documentation of at



internationally recognized indicating prospective exchange visitor's level of English proficiency. The letter must be dated within the last two years, include the dates when the potential scholar attended the institution or school, and affirm that the prospective exchange visitor achieved at least intermediate level skills.

- 5) J-1 Scholar English Proficiency Interview Assessment Report (see template on next page) from an interview conducted in English by a Lewis staff/faculty member 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. The person conducting the interview must be proficient in English.

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

- Can you tell me about your previous experiences traveling and/or living abroad? What will you do to prepare for your time in the U.S.? Wh

T

