



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 least one of the following:

- 1) Documentation that the prospective J-1 exchange visitor is a Native English speaker from Australia, Belize, Botswana, Canada (except Quebec), Commonwealth Caribbean, Ghana, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom, or Zimbabwe.
- 2) Copy of diploma from U.S. institution or foreign institution where instruction occurred in English.
- 3) Copy of official scores from one of the following English language tests taken within the last two years and meeting the stated minimum score noted below:

Language Assessment	Minimum Score	Website
TOEFL	Paper: 550/ Internet-based: 79	https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt
IELTS	6.0	http://www.ielts.org/

The scholar should contact his/her local TOEFL center to provide an official score to Lewis University (code 1404). If he/she took IELTS, email a scanned copy of your score to Lewis University.

- 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 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.? What motivated you to pursue a research position at Lewis?
- How do you think that the time you spend at Lewis University will benefit you personally and professionally?
- What do you think will be the most challenging aspect of living and working in the U.S.?
- How do you plan to share what you have learned when you return to your home country?

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



J-1 Scholar English Proficiency Interview Assessment Report

Prospective Scholar: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Host Faculty Name: _____

Department: _____

Date of Interview: _____

Interview Method: In Person By videoconferencing By Telephone

Question	Score	Assessment Comments
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.?		
How do you think that the time you spend at Lewis University will benefit you personally and professionally?		
What do you think will be the most challenging aspect of living and working in the U.S.?		
How do you plan to share what you have learned when you return to your home country?		
Please enter additional J program content-area questions and questions developed to gauge whether the prospective scholar will be able to function on a day to day basis in the U.S. and this specific J program.		

Host Faculty's Overall Assessment

Interviewer's Signature

Date

Department Chair or Director

Date