

Guidelines for Assessment of English Language Proficiency

Effective January 5, 2015, the Department of State will require program sponsors to assess *and document* the English language proficiency of each incoming J scholar before issuing a DS-2019 for him or her. Although we have always been required to confirm scholars' English proficiency, collecting such documentation is a new requirement.

At UIUC, the faculty host is required to conduct the English assessment unless there are extenuating circumstances, in which case the assessment may be conducted by the department head. As part of the DS-2019 application, the faculty host must provide information about and documentation of the assessment, and confirm that the prospective scholar has sufficient proficiency in the English language to successfully participate in his or her program and to function on a day-to-day basis in the United States.

Acceptable methods of assessment are:

- Interview
 - Must be conducted by the faculty host or department head
 - May be conducted by videoconference, in person, or by telephone (if other options are not viable)
 - Date and location of interview must be provided
- Recognized English language test
 - TOEFL minimum composite score of 60
 - IELTS minimum score of 6
 - Score report must be provided
- Documentation from an academic institution
 - A letter (signed and on letter) from the a representative of the institution must be provided, confirming the prospective scholar has sufficient proficiency in the English language to successfully participate in his or her J program and function on a day-to-day basis in the United States.
- Documentation from an English language school
 - A letter (signed and on letterhead) or certificate must be provided, confirming the prospective scholar has completed the English language training.

NOTE: Although the assessment form still must be completed for the following scholars, a language assessment will not be required.

- Scholars whose native language is English
- Scholars who have successfully participated in a UIUC J program in the past
- Scholars who received a degree or are currently attending an institution where English is the medium of instruction.
 - Name of the institution and copy of the diploma or confirmation of enrollment must be provided