

Guidelines for Assessment of English Language Proficiency

The Department of State requires program sponsors to assess and document the English language proficiency of each incoming J scholar before issuing a DS-2019.

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 process, 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 within the past two years
- 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

- Test must have been taken within the past two years
- Acceptable tests/minimum scores include:
 - TOEFL iBT minimum score of 79
 - IELTS minimum score of 6.5
 - Duolingo (accepted temporarily) minimum score of 115
- Score report must be provided

Documentation from an Academic Institution

- A letter (dated within the past two years, signed and on letterhead) from 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 within the past two years.

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 within the past two years

Scholars who are currently attending an institution where English is the medium of instruction, or scholars who completed a degree at such an institution within the past two years

- Name of the institution and copy of the diploma or confirmation of enrollment must be provided