

English Verification for J-1 Scholars

The Department of State (DOS) requires J-1 program sponsors to determine that prospective exchange visitors have sufficient English proficiency to successfully participate in their J-1 programs at Ohio State.

Per regulations, the sponsor must now show that 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. [22 CFR 62.10(a)(2)]

DOS states that this was prompted because it found that “too many exchange visitors lack sufficient English proficiency to perform their jobs or complete their academic programs; to navigate daily life in the United States; to read and comprehend program materials; to understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections; and to know how to obtain assistance, if necessary.” [79 FR 60294, 60301]

In the supplementary information of the preamble preceding the rule, DOS also “reminds sponsors to retain evidence of how they measured applicants’ English language proficiency so that it may be made available to the Department of State upon request.” [60301]

Per this request, one of the following measurements must now be used to determine that each prospective exchange visitor has sufficient English proficiency “to participate in his or her program and to function on a day-to-day basis.”

Mark which option was used to verify the English proficiency of: _____
(Prospective Exchange Visitor’s Name)

- A recognized English language test
- Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school
- A documented interview conducted by the sponsor, either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option, held on the following date:

English Verification Conducted by (Printed Name): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Department/College: _____