



English Proficiency Requirement for J-1 Exchange Visitors

The U.S. Department of State requires that J-1 exchange visitors have the English language skills necessary to successfully participate in their programs and to function on a day-to-day basis. [22 CFR §62.10(a)(2)].

All new requests processed through ICEI for J-1 exchange visitors must include documentation of sufficient English proficiency as outlined below.

How to meet requirements?

The options below are available for documenting sufficient English proficiency. Prospective exchange visitors must provide documentation to demonstrate that they meet one of the five options below.

OPTION 1: Evidence of having obtained a degree from a postsecondary institution where instructions are given in English

- For degrees from non-U.S. institutions, evidence must be in form of transcript in English showing degree conferred and English as the language of instruction.
- If the transcript from a non-U.S. institution does not state English as the language of instruction, an official letter from the institution's registrar stating the medium of instruction was English.

OPTION 2: Evidence of having attended English language school

- Transcript from the English language school.
- If transcript is not available, a signed letter from the English language school stating that the prospective EV achieved at least intermediate level skills. (additional English proficiency interview might be conducted)
- Such transcript or letter must indicate that the prospective EV attended the school within the past 2 years.

OPTION 3: Evidence of citizenship of a country whose official language is English

- Documentation that the prospective J-1 exchange visitor is a Native English speaker.



OPTION 4: Evidence of having obtained the minimum required scores on a recognized English language test

- The matrix below indicates minimum required scores of English tests, one of which an individual must meet to qualify for J-1 sponsorship if the prospective EV chooses the option 4. **Only test scores from within the past two years will be considered valid.**

Test	Minimum Score
TOEFL paper	500
TOEFL Internet- based	45
IELTS	5.0
TOEIC	600/120/110

OPTION 5: J-1 English Proficiency Interview

- The interview can be conducted in person, via Skype or other videoconference method, or if videoconferencing is not available, telephone.

Please contact our offices to arrange an English Language Proficiency Interview.