

J-1 Exchange Visitor: English Language Proficiency Requirement

The U.S. Department of State (DoS) has mandated that J-1 Exchange Visitors have sufficient English proficiency to successfully participate in their programs and successfully function in the U.S. on a day-to-day basis [22 CFR §62.10(a)(2)].

Documentation of the prospective J-1 Exchange Visitor's English proficiency must be submitted as part of the DS-2019 request process.

J-1 Scholar Information:

Family Name: _____ First Name: _____

J-1 Scholar English Proficiency:

The above J-1 scholar satisfied the English proficiency requirement by:

- Being from a country whose first official language is English.
- Gaining a satisfactory TOEFL (iBT of 80 or above) or IELTS (6.0 or above) score. Please attach the scores with this form. Scores must not be more than 2 years old.
- Being interviewed by the host department. The evaluator should refer to the questions and proficiency scale provided on the next page.

Evaluator Contact Information:

Name: _____

Department: _____ Position title: _____

Email address: _____ Phone number: _____

Evaluation of Scholar's English Language Proficiency:

Proficiency Level (1-5): _____ Date of interview: _____

Select your interview method:

- in person by videoconferencing (e.g. Skype) by telephone

If you conducted the interview by telephone, please explain why videoconferencing was not an option:

I attest that the J-1 candidate possesses sufficient proficiency in the English language to navigate daily life in the U.S.; obtain assistance if necessary; perform J-1 activities and duties; read and comprehend J-1 program materials; and understand rights, responsibilities, and protections. Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

English Language Proficiency Evaluation Instructions

Use the following questions to interview the prospective J-1 scholar and evaluate their English proficiency. The interview should be conducted either in person or over videoconference. Phone interviews are permitted if there is a compelling reason that videoconferencing or in person interviews are not possible. Interviews should last no less than 15 minutes.

The interviewer should explain that:

- the U.S. Department of State requires English proficiency of all J-1 scholars.
- the interviewer will ask a series of questions that must be answered in English.
- the prospective J-1 scholar will be given a rating of 1 through 5 (with 5 being highest) based on this evaluation.

Interview Questions

- Please tell me a little bit about yourself and why you are interested in visiting Youngstown State University?
- Please tell me about your research interests and what you hope to achieve while you are at YSU.
- Have you been to the U.S. before? What things outside of YSU would you like to see and do while you are here?
- How do you think that the time you spend at YSU will benefit you personally and professionally?
- What do you think will be the most challenging aspect of living and working in the U.S.?
- Do you have any questions for me?

Evaluating Proficiency

Use the scale below and evaluation sheet on the next page to evaluate the prospective J-1 Scholar. A level of 3.5-5 is considered successful and a level of 1-3 is considered unsuccessful. Levels are based on the ETS Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit (SPEAK) Test. Half scores are acceptable (for example, 4.5).

Level	Characteristics of Communication
1	<i>Impossible to understand</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not understand questions• Attempts at English incomprehensible
2	<i>Nearly impossible to understand</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few words are intelligible• Speech contains mostly sentence fragments, repetition of vocabulary and simple phrases
3	<i>Possible to understand, although often repetition is needed</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major or minor grammatical errors• Communication sometimes affected by errors, but speech can generally be understood
4	<i>Easy to understand</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Errors not unusual, but rarely major• Communication generally not affected by errors
5	<i>Communication is effortless</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Errors not noticeable• Delivery often has native-like smoothness

Evaluation Sheet

Use the table below to document and evaluate your interview with the J-1 Scholar. Although not required, space has been provided for any additional interview question(s).

J-1 Scholar Family Name: _____ First Name: _____

Question	Responses/Notes	Evaluation (1-5)
Tell me a little bit about yourself and why you are interested in visiting YSU?		
Please tell me about your research interests and what you hope to achieve while you are at YSU.		
Have you been to the U.S. before? What things outside of YSU would you like to see and do while you are here?		
How w the time you spend at YSU will benefit you personally and professionally?		
What do you think will be the most challenging aspect of living and working in the U.S?		
Do you have any questions for me?		

Final Evaluation (1-5): _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____