

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**OPTIONS FOR DEMONSTRATING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TO SATISFY NEW J-1 EXCHANGE**  
**VISITOR VISA REQUIREMENTS (revised February 5, 2015)**

The US Department of State expects Exchange Visitors to have a level of English proficiency that allows them to successfully 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.

An Exchange Visitor can document the English proficiency requirements in several ways. The CGE will accept any one of the following types of documentation as evidence that the prospective Exchange Visitor meets the required spoken and written English language proficiency. The documentation must accompany the Request for DS-2019 forms submitted by departments to the Center for Global Engagement. Options for documenting spoken and written English proficiency are:

- Prospective EV is a citizen of a country where English is an official language (copy of passport biographical page required).
- Prospective EV attended a university at which English is the language of instruction, for at least one academic year (copy of diploma or transcript AND documentation confirming that English is the language of instruction if institution is not in a country where English is the official language required).
- Prospective EV has taught university level classes in English (letter from academic institution required).
- Prospective EV has attained an acceptable score on one of the following English proficiency tests (copy of score report required). Note: Scores are valid for two years.

ibTOEFL: ≥61 Paper-based TOEFL: ≥500

Pearson Test of English: ≥54

IELTS: ≥6

MELAB: ≥69

TOEIC : ≥600 (Listening and Reading *or* Speaking and Writing)

- Prospective EV has demonstrated spoken and written proficiency in a video interview conducted by FSU's Center for Intensive English Studies. Inviting departments must provide the visitor's email address to [tschaad@fsu.edu](mailto:tschaad@fsu.edu), so that the instructions for registering for an interview time may be sent to the visitor. If the video interview does not demonstrate sufficient command of spoken English, the visitor will be required to submit one of the above test scores.
- In very limited cases, where the prospective EV is a senior faculty member or professional who is well-established in the academic or professional field and has demonstrated extensive use of spoken and written English, the department can provide a comprehensive list of the visitor's publications and presentations that were published or presented in English with links when available to submit with the prospective EV's CV for review by the Center for Global Engagement. If the documentation is not sufficient, the visitor will be required to submit one of the above alternative forms of documentation.

**If an exchange visitor does not have the English proficiency necessary to comprehend information and communicate during the required check in and orientation at the CGE, the sponsoring faculty member will be notified. Future exchange visitors invited by this faculty member will need to use an alternative methods (excluding the video interviewing and department certification) of proving English proficiency.**