J1 Exchange Visitors English Language Proficiency Requirements

East Tennessee State University on Documenting Proficiency

Effective January 5, 2015

U.S. Department of State regulations require that exchange visitor program sponsors ensure that all exchange visitors “possess 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. “

In order to comply with the above requirements, East Tennessee State University developed the following policy on acceptable documentation of English proficiency:

1. Exchange visitors under the Student category must comply with ETSU admission requirements regarding English proficiency requirements.
2. Exchange visitors under the categories of Research Scholar, Specialist and Short-Term Scholars, must document English proficiency by means of:
   1. submitting TOEFL scores with a minimum score of 79 or minimum score of 18 in the speaking section.
   2. taking the Oral Proficiency Interview test (OPI) and successfully passing with a minimum of advanced low.
3. Exchange Visitors under the Professor category must document English Proficiency by means of:
   1. taking the Oral Proficiency Interview test (OPI) and successfully passing with a minimum of advanced high .
   2. submitting TOEFL scores with a minimum score of 99 or a minimum score of 26 in the speaking section .

Host departments will be responsible for coordinating the OPI testing of a prospective visitor. Webex program will be used to video record the interview.

No DS-2019 form will be issued until the English proficiency documentation is received by International Programs and Services.