

English Proficiency Requirement for Visiting Scholars

U.S. federal regulations require that J-1 Exchange Visitor program sponsors must determine that prospective J-1 Exchange Students and Visitors have sufficient, verifiable English language skills to participate in the program and to function on a day-to-day basis.

Applicants can use one of the following objective measurements to document English language proficiency:

- **Recognized English language test (must be dated within the last 5 years):**
- TOEFL - 550 paper, 213 Computer, or 80 Internet
- IELTS - score of 6.0
- PTE - score of 58
- **English Certification**
- A diploma or transcript from an English-speaking University
- A certificate of completion from an ESL school or institution
- **A Documented Interview**
- A documented interview demonstrating the scholar's proficiency in English, as evaluated by the sponsoring department at Valparaiso University.
- We can also accept the evaluation of our partners, United Board and Zhejiang University.
- Interviews can be conducted either in-person or via video-conference and must be conducted in English. A minimum of two (2) evaluators must be present and should submit the attached Confirmation of English Ability form to the Office of International Programs for verification.

(Please refer to the Confirmation of English Ability for Exchange Visitors Form)

Confirmation of English Ability for Exchange Visitor (Scholar)

Note for the Evaluator: The Department of State wants sponsors to ensure that exchange visitors have “sufficient English proficiency to perform their jobs, navigate daily life in the United States, read and comprehend program materials, understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections, and know how to obtain assistance.”

Exchange Student or Scholar' s Name (as listed in passport)

Surname/Family Name : _____

Given name(s) (first and middle names): _____

Date of Birth: (month/day/year): _____

If the evaluation is conducted through an interview in English:

Date of interview: _____

Time of interview: _____

Length of interview: _____

Mode of interview:

___ in-person

___ videoconferencing

___ other: _____

If the evaluation is done by other objective measures other than an interview conducted in English, please list the method or test. (More evidence may be needed).

I certify by checking **both** of the boxes below that the interview or evaluation above confirmed the English proficiency to be sufficient both:

___ **to successfully participate in the exchange visitor's program and**

___ **to function on a day-to-day basis in Valparaiso University.**

Name and Position of employee conducting interview and evaluation:

Name of Institution where this employee works: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____ phone: _____