English Language Proficiency Requirement for J-1 Visa Sponsorship

There are a few ways scholars can demonstrate English language proficiency.

**CITIZENSHIP**

Scholars who are citizens of one of the below listed countries.

- Anguilla
- Antigua
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Botswana
- British Virgin Islands
- Canada (English-speaking, i.e. not Quebec)
- Cayman Islands
- Dominica
- Eswatini
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Grand Turks and Caicos Islands
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Montserrat
- Namibia
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- South Africa (English-speaking, i.e. not Afrikaans)
- St. Kitts-Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent
- Tanzania
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uganda
- United Kingdom
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**EDUCATION**

Scholars who have earned a degree from an accredited institution of higher education from one of the above listed countries or from an accredited institution in the United States.

**Required Documentation:** Copy of Diploma

- OR -

Scholars who have earned a degree – or – are enrolled in a degree program where English is the primary language of instruction of the school or program of study.

**Required Documentation:** Letter on letterhead from academic institution that:

- Describes the writer’s familiarity with the exchange visitor’s English language ability;
- Attests that English is the primary language of instruction of the school or program of study;
- Provides supporting documentation about the school that demonstrates recognition of its degrees and its authority to operate under the education laws of the country where it is located.

  o Download Sample Letter

**STANDARDIZED ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST SCORES**

- [Duolingo English Test](https://www.duolingo.com/learnenglish) - minimum score of 115 [make scores available to University of Maryland, Baltimore – Graduate]
- [TOEFL iBT](https://www.toefl.org) - minimum of 80 on internet-based test; minimum of 550 on paper-based test.
- [IELTS](https://www.ielts.org) - minimum of 7.0 total bandwidth