English Language Proficiency Requirement for J-1 Visa Sponsorship

There are a few ways scholars can demonstrate English language proficiency. Scholars must demonstrate they meet one of the below criteria to be eligible for UMB’s J-1 sponsorship.

CITIZENSHIP

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

Anguilla
Antigua
Australia
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
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

Required Documentation: Copy of passport

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 from degree program where English is the primary language of instruction of the school or program of study.

Required Documentation:
- Document from school’s registration office that confirms your degree was conferred AND that English is the primary language of instruction of either the school or the program of study.

- OR -
Scholars who are currently 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 where scholar is enrolled 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, AND
- 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.
  - Download Sample Letter

STANDARDIZED ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST SCORES

Required Documentation: Score report from one of the following tests demonstrating achievement of the minimum score or above for that test AND demonstrates that test was taken within the past two years.

- **Duolingo English Test** - minimum score of 115 [make scores available to University of Maryland, Baltimore – Graduate]
- **TOEFL iBT** - minimum of 80 on internet-based test; minimum of 550 on paper-based test.
- **IELTS** - minimum of 7.0 total bandwidth

Scholars who do not currently have one of the above qualifications are encouraged to take the Duolingo English Test, which is low-cost and easily accessible online.