



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

Exemptions from English Language Proficiency Test or Interview

- Individuals who have received a degree from an accredited institution in the U.S. or a nationally recognized university in one of the countries on the below list do not need to submit an English proficiency exam or go through the proficiency interview process. **Scholars will be asked to upload their diploma copy to the J-1 Applicant Information e-form.**
- Subject to approval by OIS, a letter on letterhead from an academic institution or English language school outside the U.S. may fulfill the English language proficiency requirement provided that;
 - The letter describes the writer's familiarity with the exchange visitor's English language ability;
 - Attests that English is the language of instruction of the school;
 - Supporting documentation about the school is attached about the recognition of its degrees and its authority to operate under the education laws of the country where it is located.

Scholars will be asked to upload this letter to the J-1 Applicant Information e-form.

[Download Sample Letter](#)

- Scholars who are citizens of any of the countries on the list below are not required to take an English proficiency exam, or complete the English Language Proficiency Interview process:

Antigua
Australia
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
Botswana
Canada (English-speaking, i.e. not Quebec)
Cayman Islands
Dominica
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. Lucia
St. Vincent
Swaziland

Tanzania
The Bahamas
The British Virgin Islands – St. Kitts-Nevis, Anguilla
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
United Kingdom
Zambia
Zimbabwe