



J-1 English Language Proficiency Requirement

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INVITING DEPARTMENT

English Language Proficiency Requirement

The US Department of State requires an incoming J-1 Scholar to have sufficient English language proficiency to successfully complete his/her research objectives at UMBC. In addition to this legal requirement, the purpose of the J-1 visa program is intercultural exchange and mutual understanding. Therefore, it is essential that J-1 exchange visitors be confident in their language abilities for day-to-day interactions.

*I attest that I have spoken with the prospective exchange visitor **in English**, and that s/he has sufficient English proficiency to successfully complete the proposed J-1 program and to handle day-to-day interactions in the U.S.*

Signature of inviting faculty member

Date

If the inviting faculty member is not able to attest to the above statement, please select one of the below options for demonstrating sufficient English proficiency.

English language proficiency can be verified through official TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC, or Pearson Test of English (PTE) results, not older than two years. The minimum acceptable range of TOEFL iBT scores is 70-80. The minimum acceptable range of IELTS scores 5.0-6.5 (total bandwidth score). The minimum acceptable range of TOEIC scores is 605-780. The minimum acceptable range of PTE scores is 50-60. **Please attach official test results.**

Exchange visitors who have earned a college-level degree from an institution that uses English as its language of instruction can provide a copy of their transcript.

Finally, if this requirement cannot be satisfied using one of the above means, the inviting department or exchange visitor are welcome to contact UMBC's [English Language Institute \(ELI\)](#) to inquire about their English proficiency evaluation services.