



Phone 617-253-3795
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<http://web.mit.edu/iso/>

To: MIT Graduate Administrators

From: Maria Brennan, MIT International Students Office

Re: **Effective January 5, 2015:** U.S. Department of State Final Rule mandating English Language Proficiency Assessment by J-1 sponsoring institutions for all prospective J-1 degree and non-degree student applicants

Date: December 31, 2014

This memo addresses the requirement of an English language proficiency assessment for all prospective J-1 degree and non-degree student applicants, and the obligations of the department, School, and Program admitting the prospective student.

The new rule requires program sponsors to determine that a prospective J-1 student possesses sufficient proficiency in the English language to successfully participate in their program of study and “function on a day-to-day basis.”

To comply with the above mandate, J-1 program sponsors are required to use one of the following methods:

- **Evidence of a recognized English language proficiency test score, e.g. TOEFL, IELTS, etc.**
- **Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school**
- **A documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in person, by videoconferencing, or by telephone (if videoconferencing is not a viable option)**

To comply with the new regulation, we are informing MIT departments, Schools, and Programs to assess the prospective J-1 student’s English language proficiency as part of their student admissions process. According to regulations, sponsors must have on file supporting documentation of the English language proficiency assessment using one or more of the methods above. **Complete records of the assessment must be retained on file at the department admitting the prospective student for a minimum of 3 years.** The ISO will require a copy of the completed and signed Certification of English Proficiency Assessment Form on the back of this page before issuing a DS-2019 form.

Please inform all prospective J-1 degree and non-degree student applicants and MIT faculty of this new requirement.

If you have any questions please contact the ISO.



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Certification of English Proficiency Assessment Prospective J-1 degree and non-degree student applicants

Please send completed and signed copy to isoforms@mit.edu with student's name and ID# in subject line

Prospective J-1 Student: _____, _____, _____

Last Name
First Name
MIT ID # (Required)

I, as representative of the sponsoring program for the prospective J-1 student named above, understand that an assessment of the aforementioned prospective student's English language proficiency is required by law (22 CFR §62.10(a)(2)).

I declare that the prospective J-1 student named above has sufficient English language proficiency to navigate daily life in the U.S, to successfully participate in the academic program at MIT, and to comprehend his/her responsibilities and rights.

I have completed the Certification of English Language Proficiency Assessment below and I understand that supporting documentation of the assessment is required by law to be retained on file by the MIT department, School, or program for a minimum of three years.

Print name of the MIT Faculty/ Admissions Officer/MIT Administrator Title Department/ School/ Program Name

Signature Date

Check box(es)	Please Indicate how the admitting MIT Department, School, or Program has verified the English language proficiency for the prospective J-1 student applicant named above.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	English is the prospective student's first language	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verification by a recognized English language proficiency test	⇒ Keep a copy of the official test score report (Example: TOEFL, IELTS, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verification by an academic institution or English language school	⇒ Keep a copy of the <u>signed</u> institution documentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verification through a documented interview conducted by the Sponsoring Professor/Admissions Officer, Designated MIT Administrator	⇒ Print name below. Documentation required to be on file Documented interview conducted by: _____ Name _____ Title Date Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> In person <input type="checkbox"/> Via Videoconference <input type="checkbox"/> Via phone* * Only if videoconference is not a viable option