

English Language Proficiency Policy:

The Department of State (DOS) established regulations effective January 2015 which require sponsors to identify English language proficiency for exchange visitors coming to the U.S. on J-1 visas. The DOS requires sponsors to *review evidence from an objective measure* that demonstrates the exchange visitor has “*sufficient English proficiency to perform their jobs, navigate daily life in the United States, read and comprehend program materials, understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections, and be able to obtain assistance.*”

Georgia Tech requires a level of English language proficiency to determine eligibility to participate in a J scholar program at Georgia Tech. The level of proficiency required aligns with purpose of the J Exchange Visitor category and the type of activities the Exchange Visitor will engage.

- **Scholar category: minimum High Beginner level proficiency**
- **Student Intern, professors and specialist categories: minimum Intermediate level proficiency**

The proficiency levels are based on the Georgia Tech [Rubric](#) and [Test Score Matrix](#) developed in partnership with the GT Language Institute.

Georgia Institute of Technology will accept the following to review English language proficiency and eligibility for a DS-2019 to participate in a J-1 Exchange Program:

- Evidence a prospective scholar is a native English speaker.
- A language proficiency test score using the Cambridge English grading scale, iBT TOEFL or IELTS taken within the last two years demonstrating the minimum test scores.
- Evidence of pursuit of an academic degree from an institution of higher education that was taught in English in the form of a transcript with grades and the grading scale written in English from a college, university. When it is not written on the transcript or otherwise obvious, the scholar must also provide evidence that the language of instruction in the classroom was English.
- Evidence completion of an English training program in the form of a transcript which documents the grades earned, the grading scale and, the level of English proficiency achieved which can be evaluated based on the Georgia Tech rubric.
- A report showing at minimum level of English required for the J category on the Georgia Tech Proficiency Assessment conducted by the GT Language Institute.

Scholars with demonstrated English use in a professional setting may submit:

- The Georgia Tech attestation form which demonstrates the objective measure used to evaluate the English language proficiency of the prospective scholar. **The attestation must document the name and affiliation of the interviewer, the mode of the interview, the language proficiency level based on the GT rubric, evidence showing regular professional use of English in daily work in the form of a current CV, as well as any comments from the person completing interview regarding their capacity to objectively measure the individual’s English language proficiency.**

English Language Attestation:

Prospective J Exchange Visitor's Family Name:

Prospective J Exchange Visitor's Given Name:

Interviewer's Full Name:

Interviewer's Full Title:

Interviewer's Affiliation/Relationship to Interviewee:

Attestation:

As required by the U.S. Department of State, I attest:

- I am qualified to objectively measure/identify English proficiency,
- I have conducted an interview with the above prospective J Exchange Visitor, and
- Their "English proficiency is sufficient to perform their jobs, navigate daily life in the United States, read and comprehend program materials, understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections, and be able to obtain assistance."

INTERVIEWER'S SIGNATURE:

Date of the Interview:

Location of the Interview:

Mode of Interview:

- In person
- Phone
- Skype (or similar platform)

Based on the Georgia Tech [rubric](#), I attest the scholar possesses an English language proficiency at the following level:

- Low Beginner
- High Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Required statement or comments regarding the prospective Exchange Visitor's regular use of English in their daily work and the interviewer's capacity to objectively measure the individual's English language proficiency (may include a former J sponsor, employer or person who has direct knowledge of the individual's regular use of English in their work.)

When complete, the prospective J Exchange Visitor will submit this attestation using iStart in the English Proficiency Verification e-form.