



## EVALUATING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR J-1 VISITING SCHOLARS

*If you choose to evaluate English proficiency through an interview, you may use this guidance on what questions to ask and how to evaluate the individual. The interview does not have to be long; typically between 5-15 minutes. Please complete steps 1-3 and return this form with the signed Evaluation Results when completing the DS-2019 Request.*

### STEP 1: Interview Questions

*\*Ask one from each category*

1. About preparation/plans/expectations
  - a. What type of courses or training have you completed to prepare you to come to the US/UD?
  - b. What skills or knowledge do you hope to learn during your time at UD?
  - c. What do you hope to learn about American culture and society?
  
2. Ability to handle day-to-day interactions
  - a. What would you do in your country if you got really sick or ill? Who would you ask for help?
  - b. What would you do in your country if you saw a fire? Who would you call for help?
  - c. What would you do if you were locked out of your home/apartment/car? Who would you ask for help?
  
3. About their background
  - a. What kind of work/research have you done in the past?
  - b. Tell me about your town/city/family.
  - c. Have you ever traveled to the US before? What was your favorite thing that you did?
  
4. Check for understanding
  - a. [Explain something about the program / UD / arrival procedures then ask] Can you explain to me what you understood of what I just told you?

### STEP 2: Evaluating Proficiency

We have provided a scale on the next page that you can use to evaluate the individual. CGPS views a score of 3 as the recommended minimum for sufficient proficiency.

## Proficiency Scale

| Level | Characteristics of Communication  |
|-------|---|
| 1     | <b>Impossible to understand</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does not understand questions</li><li>• Attempts at English incomprehensible</li></ul>  |
| 2     | <b>Nearly impossible to understand</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Few words are intelligible</li><li>• Speech contains mostly sentence fragments, repetition of vocabulary, and simple phrases</li></ul>                               |
| 3     | <b>Possible to understand, although often repetition is needed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major or minor grammatical errors</li><li>• Communication sometimes affected by errors, but speech can generally be understood</li></ul> |
| 4     | <b>Easy to understand</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Errors not unusual, but rarely major</li><li>• Communication generally not affected by errors</li></ul>   |
| 5     | <b>Communication is effortless</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Errors not noticeable and accent not distracting</li><li>• Delivery often has native-like smoothness</li></ul>   |

\*Levels based on the ETS Speak test

## STEP 3: Evaluation Results

J-1 Scholar Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of interview:  In-person  Video-conference  Telephone

Interviewer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proficiency Level (1-5): \_\_\_\_\_

Sufficient Proficiency to successfully participate in program:  Yes  No