

J-1 Oral Proficiency Screening

The purpose of this screening is to determine a foreign scholar's degree of readiness for participation in an exchange visitor (J-1) research program.

The assessment is based on a 10-12 minute interview via Skype using an adaptive questioning protocol to rank the candidate by the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) scale. This scale defines three broad levels of proficiency: an A-Level (basic) user of English, a B-Level (independent) user of English, or a C-Level (proficient) user of English. At each level, candidates are assigned a subrating of 1, 1+, 2, or 2+. The level that MEI considers a minimum for J-1 oral proficiency is A2+.

The Process

If the scholar is paying for the test, the booking process runs as shown in the table below, following steps ❶ through ❹.

Scholar	MEI
❶ Goes to http://goo.gl/H32Uon to buy a booking voucher.	
	❷ Receives notice of purchase; emails voucher number to scholar.
❸ Receives voucher number. Goes to http://goo.gl/oT5mDA to book an interview.	
	❹ Receives notice of booking (minimum 2 day advance notice).
❺ Is available for the interview at the booking time. Participates in the interview.	❺ Contacts scholar via Skype, using info provided during booking. Conducts the interview.
	❻ Records results and forwards these to ISSS.

If the department is paying for the test, step ❶ is done by the department, which buys one or more vouchers; in step ❷ MEI emails the voucher number(s) to the department. The department in turn forwards one number to each scholar. The process then picks up at ❸.

While interviews can be rescheduled, the test fee of \$100 is non-refundable.