1. **How do we verify English language proficiency?**
   The new rules require sponsors to use one of the following "objective measurements of English language proficiency":
   - A recognized English language test
   - Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school
   - A documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option

2. **What is an acceptable English language test?**
   The most common English language tests are TOEFL, IELTS and TOEIC. TSRI accepts TOEFL results of at least 500 paper based (PBT) or 61 internet based (iBT); IELTS scores of at least 6; or TOEIC scores of at least 500. A copy of the test score must be submitted to the IO with the [TSRI Certification of English Language Proficiency form](#).

3. **What is acceptable documentation from an English language school?**
   A signed letter on institutional letterhead from a school official verifying the foreign national possesses English language proficiency high enough to successfully function daily within TSRI and the local US community is acceptable documentation. The letter is submitted to the IO with the [TSRI Certification of English Language Proficiency form](#).

4. **What about people who earned a university degree from a US institution?**
   A foreign national who earned a university degree in the US will need to submit a copy of a signed diploma. The diploma is submitted to the IO with the [TSRI Certification of English Language Proficiency form](#).

5. **What is acceptable documentation for people who are currently enrolled or have earned a degree from a foreign academic institution where English is the primary language of instruction?**
   A foreign national who is currently enrolled in a degree program or who earned a degree from a foreign academic institution will need to obtain a letter from the Registrar’s Office or other school official stating the primary language of instructions is English. The letter is submitted to the IO with the [TSRI Certification of English Language Proficiency form](#).

6. **What is considered an “interview”?**
   The interview should be either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option. Details of the interview must be submitted to the IO on the [TSRI Certification of English Language Proficiency form](#).
7. If an interview is used to determine English language proficiency, who conducts the interview? When must the interview be conducted?
The interview must be conducted by the PI who will be working most closely with the foreign national and prior to initiating the VIVA request to the IO.

8. If a scholar is currently at another U.S. institution in J-1 status and is transferring to TSRI, do we need to document English language proficiency?
Yes. This is still a requirement. This must be done for all J-1 requests who are new to TSRI.

9. What if we have already submitted a request to the IO for J visa sponsorship?
If the DS-2019 has already been issued, you do not need to do anything further. If the DS-2019 has not been issued, you will be contacted by an IO advisor requesting the TSRI Certification of English Language Proficiency form.

10. What about people in J visa status who are already at TSRI?
You do not need to do anything further. English language proficiency documentation is just for new incoming foreign nationals.