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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.

