Dear Colleagues (Faculty Hosts and Department/College Administrators),

U.S. DOS has revised the English language proficiency standard as follows:

"sufficient proficiency in the English language, as determined by an objective measurement of English language proficiency, successfully to participate in his or her program and to function on a day-to-day basis." [22 CFR 62.11(a)(2)]

The new provision goes on to require sponsors to use one of several of the following objective measurements to determine an applicant's language proficiency:

- a recognized English language test;
- signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school; or
- a documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in-person or by videoconferencing, or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option

In the supplementary information of the rule, DOS also "reminds sponsors to retain evidence of how they measured applicants' English language proficiency so that it may be made available to the Department upon request." [60301]

In order to comply with these changes, IPSO will implement the use of a certification document beginning with all J program initial requests logged in on or after 20 December 2014.

Thank you for your continuing good work on behalf of GRU.

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