



J-1 English Proficiency—An Industry Overview

Presenters

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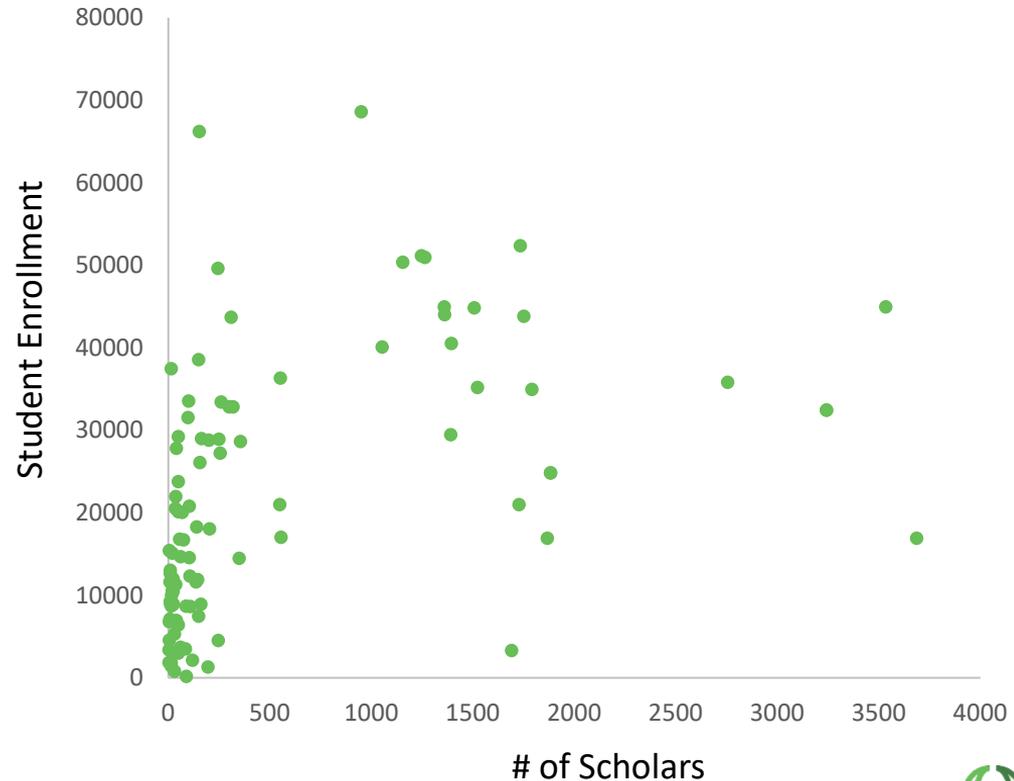
Moroni Flake

COO, English3

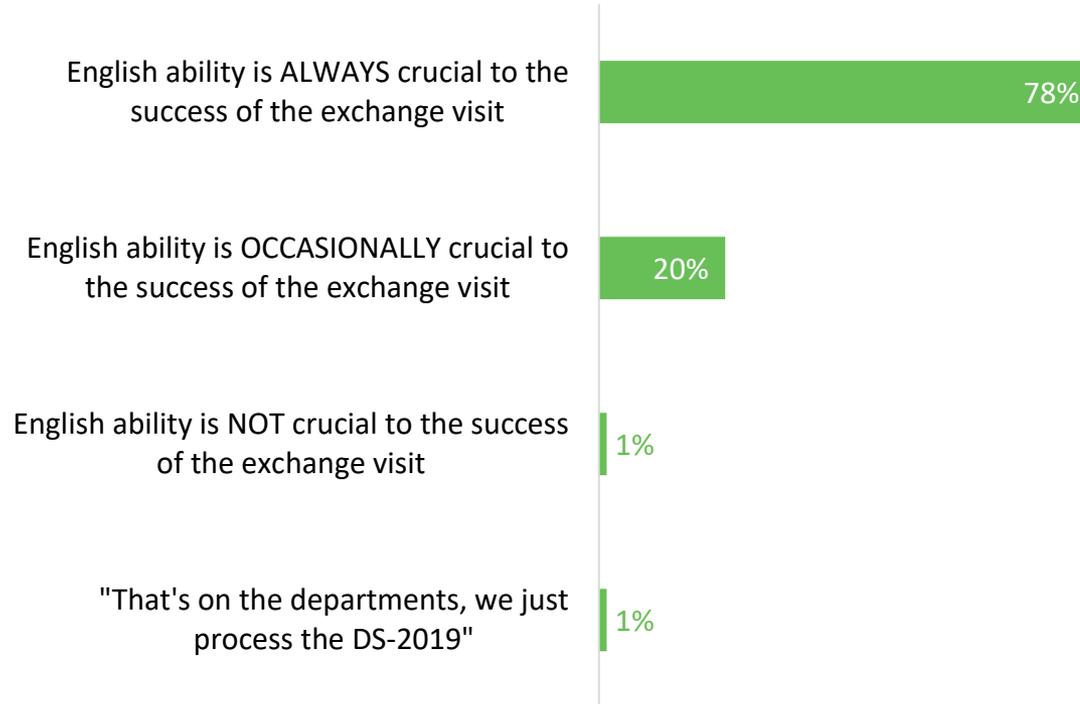


Who Participated in the Survey?

- The study includes 89 universities
 - 41 Directors,
 - 18 Associate Directors
 - 23 Scholar Advisors
 - Executive Directors,
Assessment Coordinators,
Global Initiatives Officer,
Senior International Officer
- Encompasses 22,000 scholars



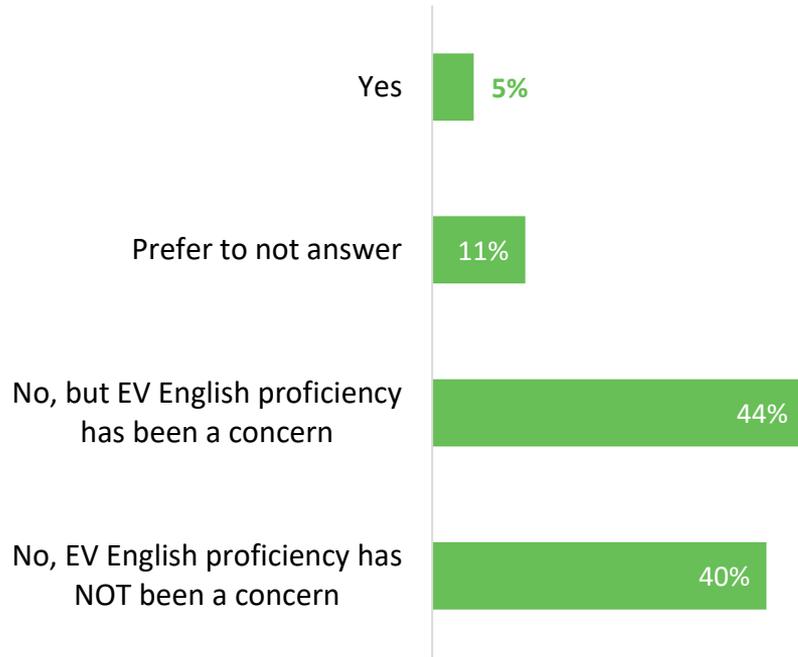
Which statement best represents your view of J-1 English proficiency?



What are the risks of J-1's arriving with insufficient English Proficiency?



Has your university terminated an exchange visit due to insufficient English Proficiency?



“We had a number of [scholars arrive without English] within a short time period, one of which did result in the scholar having to return home. This is why we feel so strongly that independent assessment of English proficiency is so important.”



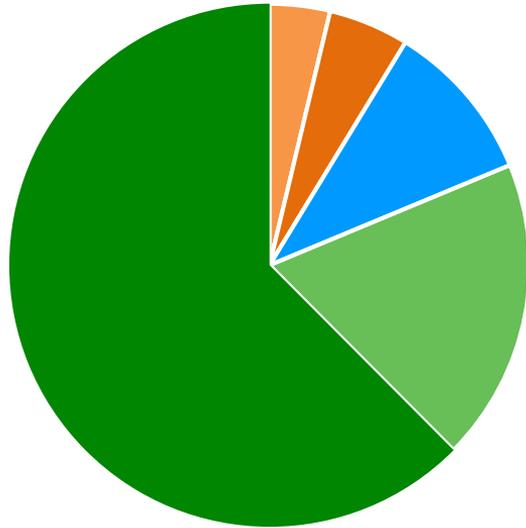
Have English proficiency policies been discussed during a State Department visit within the past 2 years?



- 57% of respondents have not had a visit in the last 2 years.
- Of those who received a visit, 65% said English proficiency policies were discussed.



When an English interview is needed to verify J-1 English proficiency, who completes the interview?



63%—Sponsoring Department / P.I.

19%—On-Campus English Dept.

10%—Third-Party English Assessment

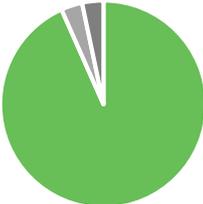
5%—The International Office

4%—We do not Allow an Interview



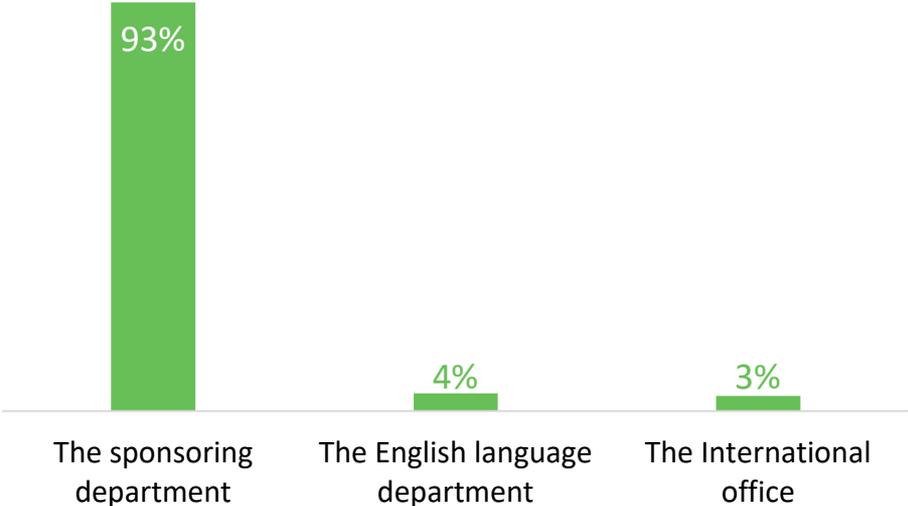
When an interview is needed for the J-1 English proficiency requirement, who completes the interview?

ISSS Offices Allowing a Dept. Interview to Verify English



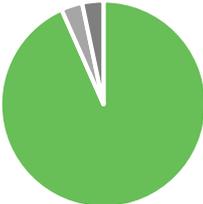
2015

93%



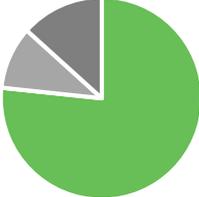
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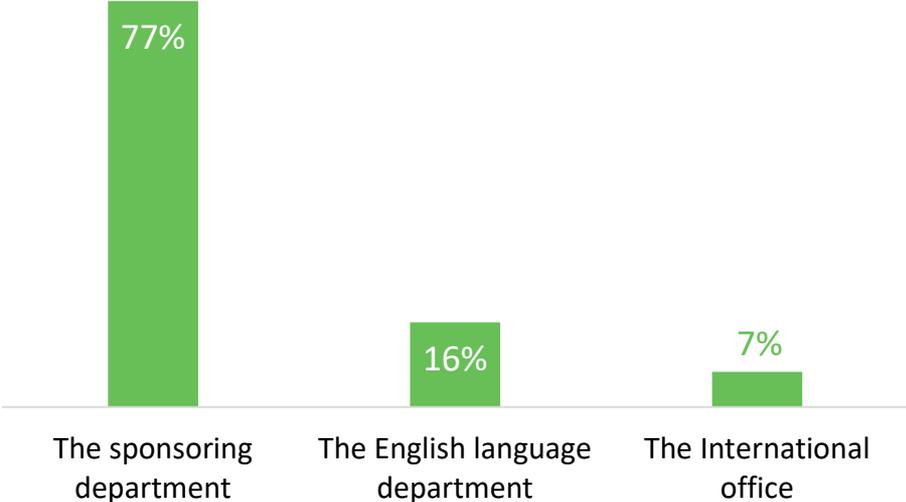
2015

93%



2017

77%



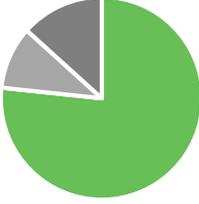
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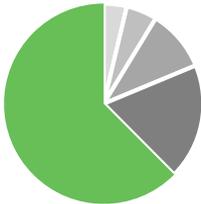
2015

93%



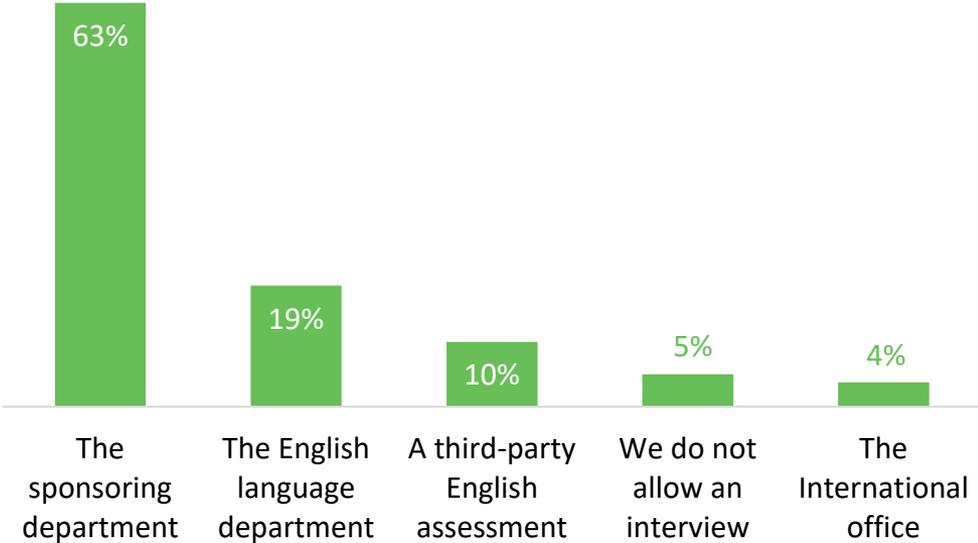
2017

77%

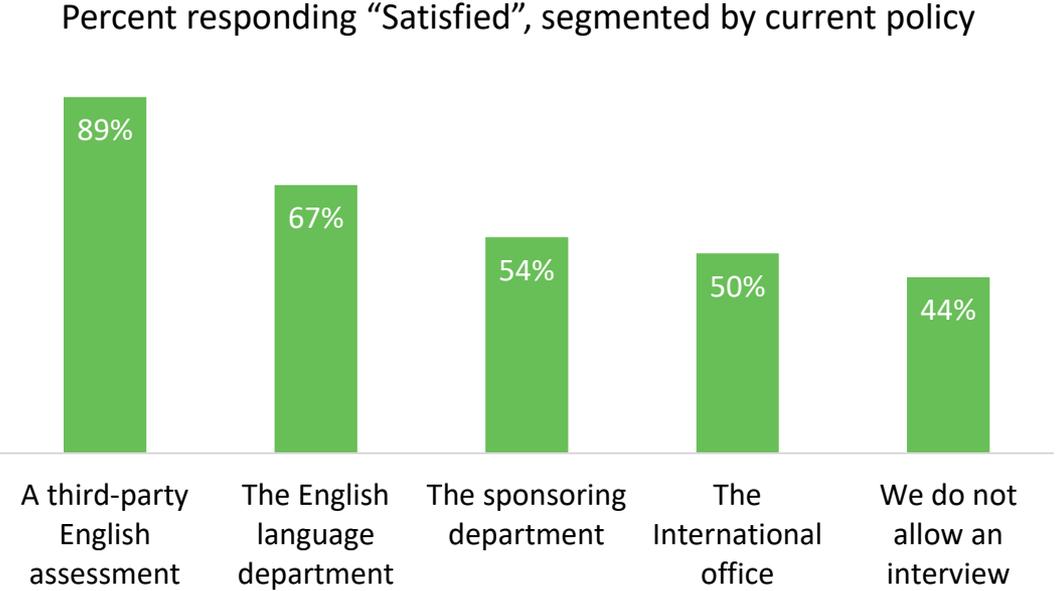
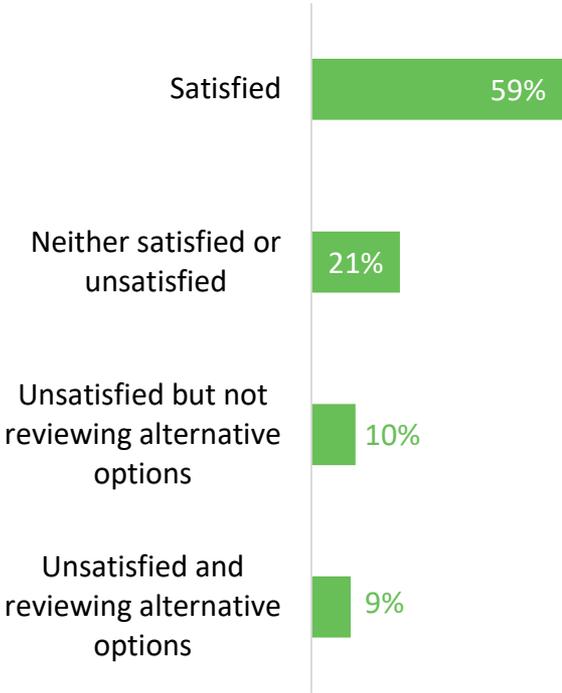


2019

63%



What is your perspective of the current policy?



Directors are nearly twice as likely as advisors to be satisfied with the current policy

Directors



68%

Associate Directors



65%

Scholar or Student Advisor, Other



38%



Why so many universities have the department / P.I complete the interview

“We simply do not have the time or manpower to interview the 1200 scholars we have here at any one time.”



“It wasn't really a decision--it just ended up happening that way. I'm not happy with it and am changing the policy this year.”



“As they interact with the scholars, we wanted to make it their responsibility. Also, there is a capacity issue within the international office.”



Northwestern
University

“They are the ones working with the scholar and the most likely to complain of insufficient English ability.”



Why fewer universities are having the department/P.I. complete the interview

“As other universities clamp down on English proficiency, we have received more and more low English applicants, sometimes scholars are unable to even pass the ‘How was your flight?’ English exam”



The PI has a vested interest in having the J1 here... [We are looking to have] an independent, well qualified and objective third party, entity or service provide consistent evaluations.



To fully comply with the US regulations and ensure that the J-1 exchange visitors have a successful visit and experience in the US.

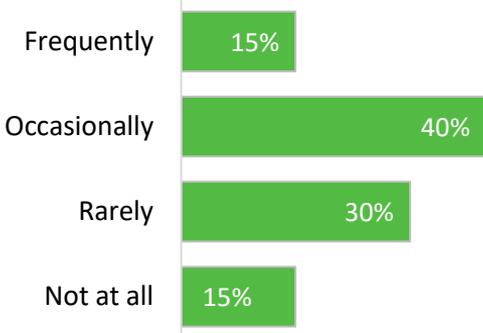


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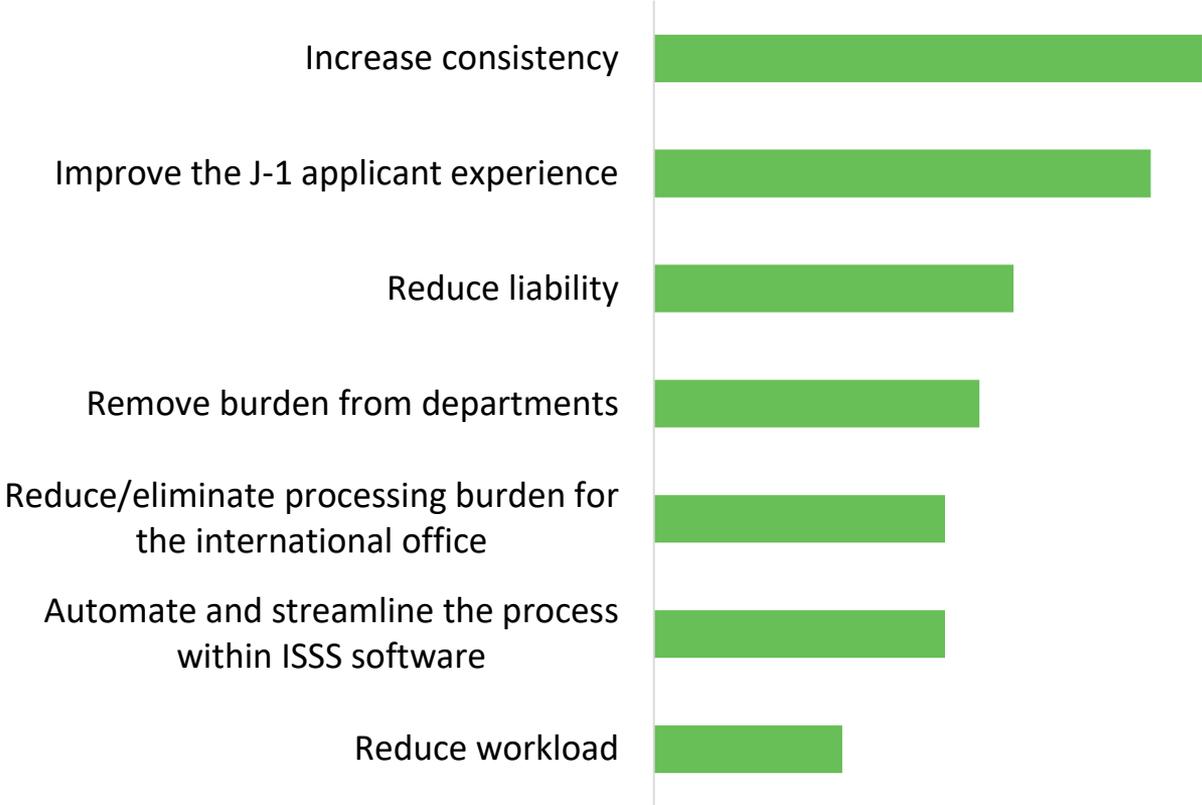
Have the departments or professors expressed frustration or concern about having to complete the interviews?



How qualified are the individuals conducting the interviews?



What elements of your J-1 English interview process would you like to improve?



What elements of your J-1 English interview process would you like to improve?

Interviews conducted by:	Increase consistency	Reduce liability	Improve the J-1 applicant experience	Reduce burden for the int'l office	Automate within ISSS software	Remove burden from departments
Department / PI	67%	35%	38%	17%	23%	29%
English Department	22%	11%	17%	33%	28%	11%
International Office	29%	14%	29%	43%	0%	0%
Third Party	11%	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%

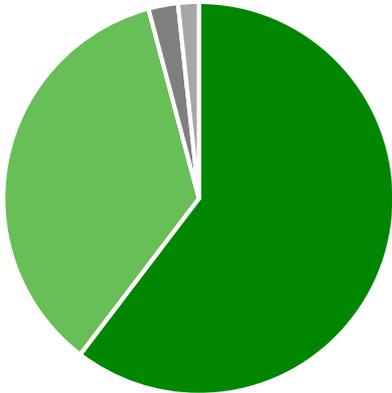
Interviews conducted by:	Average # selected
Department / PI	2.2
English Department	1.4
International Office	1.3
Third Party	0.3



Convenience is the most important factor for J-1 applicants

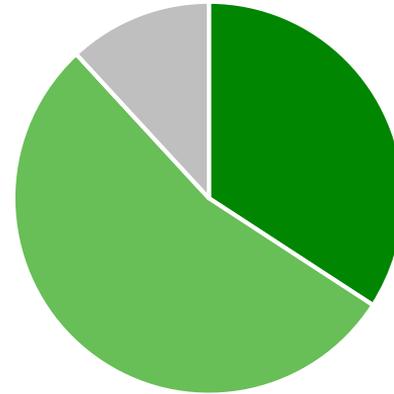
98% agree or strongly agree:

It is important that I can complete the English requirement WHEN and WHERE it is convenient for me.



88% agree or strongly agree:

The convenience of the E3J1 Interview makes it a good value for the price.



Key Characteristics of a Good Solution

1. “An objective measure of English language proficiency”
2. Ensure consistency
3. Improve compliance
4. Reduce the burden on the international office and sponsoring department
5. Improve the J-1 applicant experience
6. Be easy to implement and convenient to use
 - If applicable, automated and streamlined within ISSS software



Questions?



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