

This is the “script” of the oral interview for prospective scholars. The interview itself should last for ten minutes, at least half of which should be the answers of the prospective scholar. If you feel like any answer is too brief to evaluate, please ask for further elaboration.

In order to help the interviewee warm up, it is good to start the interview by asking about their name, date of birth, and their field of study before moving on to the “real” questions. Answers need not be evaluated on their content, but rather on the fluency, pronunciation, and grammar of the interviewee. You are also asked to evaluate how well the prospective scholar’s listening skills are based on their ability to understand your questions. You will then evaluate the prospective scholar in each of these four categories according to a rubric provided by ESL Programs.

- 1.) Please explain why you want to come to the University of Iowa as a visiting scholar?

- 2.) Have you ever been to the US before? Where did you go? What did you do?

- 3.) Could you tell me how you became interested in your field of study?

- 4.) How will your time in this program at Iowa help you when you return to your home country?

- 5.) What do you think living in Iowa will be like?

- 6.) What are some of your hobbies or leisure activities?

- 7.) I’ve always been interested in [Scholar’s home country]. Imagine that I am planning a trip to your home country. What sights and activities would you recommend to me?

	Listening	Pronunciation	Fluency	Grammar
1	Did not actually answer the questions that the raters asked, even after several repetitions or attempts to rephrase, showing lack of listening comprehension	Had pronunciation that was extremely difficult to understand	Did not have enough vocabulary to talk about more than common, daily topics, and had extreme difficulty speaking in smooth, connected sentences	Showed very little control of grammar, using mostly 1—3 word responses or memorized sentences
2	Could understand some of the questions the raters asked, but often required repetition or long pauses before answering	Had pronunciation that required constant effort to understand	Hesitated and repeated frequently, rarely speaking an entire sentence smoothly	Made many mistakes in grammar that confused the answer's meaning
3	Could understand many of the questions that the raters asked, but mostly those related to familiar topics	Had pronunciation that was generally—but not always—understandable	Spoke smoothly some of the time, but still had false starts and repetitions that were confusing	Used some variety of grammatical structures, sometimes successfully, but still made many confusing errors
4	Was mostly able to understand any question that the raters asked	Had a “strong accent”, but was mostly easy to understand	Made a few false starts or repetitions, but had mostly smooth speech	Used a variety of grammatical structures and made some errors, but nothing that made the speaker's ideas unclear
5	Understood all questions quickly	Possibly slightly accented, but had pronunciation that was never difficult to understand	Had consistently smooth, connected speech	Showed clear control of a wide variety of grammatical structures