

David L. Boren Fellowship: Language Proficiency Testing Agreement

All recipients of the Boren Fellowship are required to be tested for proficiency in the language to be studied both before and after the study abroad experience. This test does not have any effect on the status of your award (except for Spanish and French speakers). *It is not used as a measure of your academic progress and is for research purposes only.*

Who takes the test? All award recipients take a pre- and post-test. The only exceptions are for those award recipients who have had no previous experience in that target language, either inside or outside of the classroom and for those recipients whose target language is not offered by Language Testing International (LTI). Even grantees who do not take a pre-test are required to take a post-test, if one is available for their target language. If you have been exposed to the target language outside of the classroom, you must take the language pre-test.

What is the test? Language proficiency testing will be conducted by LTI, the exclusive licensee of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). LTI will test your proficiency using the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI.) This is a standard procedure for the global assessment of functional speaking ability. It measures how well you speak a language by comparing your performance of specific language tasks against criteria for the eleven proficiency levels described by the Inter-Agency Language Roundtable (ILR), rather than against the performance of other individuals.

How does it work? LTI will conduct OPI tests over the phone, and a landline connection is recommended for quality service. A certified ACTFL language tester will conduct the exam that will last between 20 and 40 minutes. It will be digitally recorded so that it can also be rated by a second certified ACTFL tester. At the conclusion of your study, IIE will provide you with the results of your post-test in the form of an LTI certificate indicating your proficiency level. A description of the levels can be found at <http://www.govtilr.org/Skills/ILRscale2.htm>.

When do I take the test? You must take the test at least two (2) months before you depart for your program and again upon your return at the conclusion of your program. (Fellows notified of recipient status with less than 2 months before their program start date should schedule LTI tests **as soon as possible**.) If you have no prior experience with the language or your language is not available, you must email IIE (boren@iie.org) to request a waiver of the language pre-test. No award payments will be dispersed until the pre-test results are received. Failure to take the language post-test within 90 days of the program end date will result in forfeiture of the final \$500 payment.

How do I arrange a test? All test arrangements are made using a website for the Boren program. Do not go online to schedule a language test if you have no prior experience with the language.

To register for a language test, go to: <http://tms.languagetesting.com/Registration/>

Username: **iie** (case sensitive)

Password: **fellow** (case sensitive)

Testing hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. eastern time. Please provide two windows of availability, each 3 hours wide, on two different dates.

Within two weeks of filling out the on-line registration form, you will receive a test confirmation email with the day and time of your telephone interview, as well as the phone number from which the tester will call you. Please confirm your appointment by return email. If for any reason you need to cancel and reschedule your interview, please send an email to processing2@languagetesting.com or call **1-800-486-8444 ext 115 or 127** more than 24 hours before your scheduled interview. Please note: Failure to appear for the language test at the scheduled time will result in a reduction of your award.

Sign and Return: *Please sign below and upload to the Self-Service Portal*

I understand the Boren Fellowship language testing requirement and agree to abide by the above requirements as a condition of receiving a Boren Fellowship

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____