

## Testing for Certification of English Language Fluency for Teaching Interview Description

There will be two interviewers from the ELI in addition to the faculty representative from the TA/TF's department. The format of the interview is as follows:

1. Warm-Up. The ELI interviewers will ask the TA/TF for information concerning things such as name, country, educational background, etc.

2. Teaching roleplay. The TA/TF will explain a topic that he/she might have to teach a class. The topics will be suggested by the faculty representative. The TA/TF should not discuss possible topics with the faculty representative or prepare any topics before the interview. (Note: TA/TF's from language departments are not expected to use English in the classroom. Therefore, the teaching roleplay is replaced with asking the TA/TF to explain a topic related to his/her special area of interest or philosophy of language teaching.)

3. Further questions and discussion. This part of the test will require the TA/TF to demonstrate a more complex knowledge of English, including supported opinions and hypotheses. (This may follow either the "warm-up" or the roleplay.)

The format of the interview is basically the same for every interview; however, specific questions and topics will vary.

At the end of the interview, the interviewers will ask the TA/TF to leave the room for a couple of minutes while they decide on a score. The ELI interviewers will assign the score based on the "Non-Native Speaker Interview Scale for TA/TF Certification."

The total amount of time scheduled for each interview is 20 minutes although the actual interview may take only 10 or 15 minutes. It is essential that the interviewers elicit an adequate sample of speech from the TA/TF so that they can assign a score with confidence. Therefore, it is definitely to the advantage of the TA/TF to answer all questions as completely as possible with sentences and phrases rather than one-word answers.

A TA/TF may not request a second interview. However, if the faculty representative or someone else in the department is not satisfied with the test result, he/she may contact the testing supervisor for another interview with different interviewers.

If you have any questions about the interview or other procedures call Greg Mizera, ITA Testing Supervisor, at gmizera@pitt.edu.

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