



Thursday, January 12, 2017

Dear international students and scholars,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the Oral Proficiency Interview training process for our ELP instructors. Northwestern University is training some of its language instructors to be able to use the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). This is a way of assessing a learner's skill level in speaking a language. The OPI is an interview that includes a short role-play. Interviews take place in person or over the phone. The learner answers questions about himself or herself: interests, hobbies, and day-to-day life. Most learners find it to be fun and enjoyable.

English Language Programs staff members are pursuing certification in the OPI so that we can determine how and in what ways it might be used in our services. In order to help complete our training and certification, we need volunteers who are willing to be interviewed in English. This provides great conversation and interview practice as well as some familiarity with this kind of assessment. This is a nice way to get practice in an interview setting. The best part is that it is the teachers, not you, who are being tested! No scores will be given or recorded.

Please consider if this is something you can help us with. We need learners of *all* levels of proficiency, from total beginners to extremely fluent speakers with close to native-like proficiency. If you have family members or friends who are not affiliated with Northwestern University, they are welcome to volunteer as well. Because interviews will be conducted over the phone, you do not need to be located in Evanston to participate.

The interviews will be conducted between January-June of 2017. Those who complete the interview will also receive a small gift card as a token of thanks.

To sign up as a volunteer, please use this form (<http://tinyurl.com/OPI-ELP>) to give us your information, including your skill level and your availability. You are welcome to share this link with other family or friends who may be interested in participating. You may assist them in filling out the form, if need be. Please fill out only one form per person.

Thank you so much. We hope you will consider helping us to become better instructors of English!

*English Language Programs Staff*