Oral Proficiency Interview:

The OPIc is a 15-30 minute digitally-recorded conversation conducted over the telephone, between the candidate and an Avatar “tester.” It is a semi-direct test of spoken proficiency designed to elicit a sample of speech via recorded, computer-adapted voice prompts. Completed tests are digitally saved and rated by an ACTFL Certified Rater.

The candidate is assessed on his/her ability to speak the standard form of the target language without using another language or slang. The candidate’s overall ability to communicate orally in the target language is the only skill being assessed, and not the content of his/her answers, responses or opinions.

It is important that you should participate as fully as you can; giving short answers to avoid making mistakes is not recommended. If the tester introduces a topic that you do not want to discuss, you should say so. If this happens, you may need to suggest alternative topics that you’re willing to discuss. Once again, you should be an active participant in the interview. The tester is only evaluating you on how well you speak the standard form of the language, not your actual opinions. The content of your answers, responses or opinions, does not affect your final rating.

The speech you produce during this interview will be compared to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Speaking (Revised 1999) by an ACTFL certified rater. The rater will select the description that best describes the level of proficiency you demonstrated during the interview. The assessment criteria used by the rater when comparing your speech to the ACTFL descriptions are:

* Global speaking tasks accomplished (description, narration, supported opinion and hypothesizing)
* Contexts (informal and formal contexts)
* Content (range and appropriateness of vocabulary and usage)
* Accuracy (pronunciation, fluency and grammar)
* Text type (words, sentences, cohesive paragraphs, multiple paragraphs, etc.)

The Administrator will only be given your final rating. The recorded content of the interview is strictly confidential and the sole property of the testing company, LTI, and will not be shared with any other party.

Writing Proficiency Test:

The WPT is a test of your ability to write in a target language. The iWPT test is administered via the internet on a computer. Your overall ability to write professionally in the target language is the only skill being assessed.

The WPT consists of four or five writing assignments that range in difficulty from the Novice to the Superior level; each task has specific instructions and suggested working time. Be sure that your written responses address all the instructions outlined for the assignment. The WPT is a timed test, and you will be given up to 80 minutes to complete all writing assignments.

The written texts you produce on this test will be compared to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Writing (Revised 2001) by an ACTFL Certified Rater. The rater will select the description that best described the writing texts you produced. The assessment criteria used by the rater when comparing your writing to the ACTFL description are:

* Global writing tasks accomplished (descriptive, informative, narrative, persuasive and hypothetical writing)
* Written text type and length (words, sentences, paragraphs, multiple paragraphs)
* Contexts (informal and formal contexts)
* Content (range and appropriateness of vocabulary)
* Accuracy (grammar, spelling, etc.)

The Administrator will only be given your final rating. The content of the writing test is strictly confidential and the sole property of the testing company, LTI, and will not be shared with any other party.