



## **Call for Subject Matter Experts: USCIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the U.S. Naturalization Test**

TESOL International Association (TESOL) seeks subject matter experts in the areas of Adult ESL, Civics, American History, Psychometrics and Test Development for participation in a technical advisory group (TAG) to assist with the development of the revised U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization test. The TAG will meet virtually 4 times per year and complete asynchronous pre- and post-meeting written work in two groups as follows:

**The Adult ESL Group** will review and provide feedback in writing on the Speaking Test content (e.g., question prompts, images, instructions, etc.), the Speaking Test structure (e.g., administration of the test, the delivery of individual test items), and the Speaking Test design methodology (e.g., the process for selecting test content and drafting test questions). The Adult ESL Group will review and provide feedback in writing on the English language level appropriateness of the revised test items for both the Speaking Test and the Civics Test. They will use the National Reporting System for Adult Technical Assistance Guide for Performance Accountability (NRS Guide) to review the language level of individual test items and the overall test content. The Speaking Test and Civics Test will both be designed so that applicants who speak English at the high beginning level according to the NRS Guide can pass. Due to the cognitive difficulty of some content, some revised test items may register at a higher or lower language level according to the NRS Guide, but the scope of the recommended revisions should steer revised test items towards the high beginning level.

**The Civics Group** will review and provide feedback in writing on the Civics Test content (e.g., questions, answer choices, instructions, etc.), the Civics Test structure (e.g., administration of the test, the delivery of individual test items), and the Civics Test design methodology (e.g., the process for selecting test content and drafting test questions). The Civics Group will not review the Speaking Test because the Speaking Test does not contain civics-related content.

The work of the TAG will begin immediately following the selection process:

**Meeting 1 June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 3:00-7:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

Meeting 1 Make-up dates June 5 & 6 3:00-7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Post work due by June 14<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM Eastern Time

**Meeting 2 June 21<sup>st</sup> 3:00-7:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

Pre/Post work TBD; Due no later than June 29<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**TAG members will be expected to attend 4 virtual workshops, over the course of 12 months** in the base year that will each require **from 16-30 hours of pre- and/or post-meeting work**. The TAG may be continued for an additional year with 4 additional meetings.

**TESOL expects to hire a total of 10 TAG participants**, 5 for the ESL Group and 5 for the Civics group and identify several alternates. Successful candidates will have expertise in the following areas:

**For the Adult ESL Group**, TESOL will identify five candidates who all have recognized expertise, experience, and working knowledge in the following areas:

- Expertise in Adult second language acquisition.
- Expertise and experience in psychometrics in test development and test administration.
- Experience or working knowledge of the U.S. Department of Education's National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS).
- Experience or working knowledge of the U.S. naturalization testing process and test.

**For the Civics Group**, TESOL will identify five candidates who collectively have recognized expertise, experience, and working knowledge in the following areas:

- U.S. history/government, civics, social studies and/or political science.
- Expertise and experience in psychometrics in test development and test administration.
- Experience or working knowledge of the U.S. naturalization testing process and test.

Geographic and ethnic diversity of TAG members is strongly encouraged.

**In addition:**

- Chosen applicants will be required to complete a conflict of interest form, a non-disclosure agreement.
- Candidates may not use any confidential information gained through participation on the TAG or information not yet available to the general public for financial gain (i.e. authoring textbooks for profit). If selected, candidates must sign a non-disclosure agreement and a conflict of interest form to this effect.

**TAG members will be compensated hourly for the formal TAG meetings and related pre- and post-meeting work.**

The first TAG meeting will be held in early June. The first TAG meeting will be 6-8 hours, with remaining meetings approximately 4 hours. Preference will be given to candidates who are available to attend ALL TAG meetings.

Those qualified individuals wishing to apply should complete the online form [HERE](#) by **May 23, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.**

Any questions may be directed to Heidi Faust, Grants, Projects and Partnerships Officer:  
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