

THE WINSTON CHURCHILL FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES

CHURCHILL SCHOLARSHIP RECOMMENDATION

Name of Applicant

I waive any claim to access to letters of recommendation written on behalf of applicants for the Churchill Scholarship.

I do NOT waive any claim to access to letters of recommendation written on behalf of applicants for the Churchill Scholarship.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Applicant

Date

Thank you very much for agreeing to write a letter of recommendation for the above-named applicant for the Churchill Scholarship. The competition for the Churchill Scholarship is exceptionally intense, because there are only fourteen awards and because the Foundation receives applications from young men and women of extraordinary talent and exceptional achievement. Your frank, detailed assessment of this student's strengths and weaknesses is as essential as it is appreciated. Brief and generic letters are never useful; indeed, they weaken an otherwise strong application. Please write your recommendation on the letterhead of your department or research facility using only one side of the paper. Include with it this form signed by the student. The applicant will provide you with the name and address of the Scholarship Advisor to whom your letter should be sent.

Please address the questions on the second page of this form; feel free to present additional information on behalf of the applicant. Thank you very much.

Name (please print) _____

Title _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Email Address _____

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CHURCHILL SCHOLARSHIP

Your letter of recommendation will be read by the entire Screening Committee, which is composed of former Churchill Scholars, who are, for the most part, academic scientists in a variety of fields. There is always a mathematician, a physicist, an engineer, two different kinds of biologist, and a sixth reader depending on the fields of the applications. Thank you again for your assistance in the selection of Churchill Scholars.

- (1) How long have you known the applicant? In what capacity?
- (2) Please comment in detail on the applicant's academic work in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics. If relevant, please comment on his or her research in the laboratory or elsewhere. How has that work demonstrated the applicant's intellectual leadership, talent, creativity, and dedication?
- (3) How does the applicant stand when compared with other recent students in your department or laboratory? How would you rank the applicant in overall ability and achievement among the students you have taught or directed in research? It is common for those writing letters of recommendation to state that the applicant is the best or among the very best students the writer has had, so it is useful to have concrete examples for your high regard.
- (4) Please comment on the applicant's personal qualities. How do you think he or she will adjust to the challenges of a new and very different academic and social setting? The Churchill Foundation does not necessarily seek so-called "well rounded" applicants and has a penchant for people with "interesting jagged edges" who show promise of becoming leaders in their chosen fields. Churchill Scholars are known not solely for their outstanding academic talents but also for their contributions to the intellectual, athletic, dramatic, musical, and social life at Churchill College and at the University of Cambridge. How would the applicant represent your institution, the Churchill Foundation, and the United States?