

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 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, and there are only up to fifteen awards nationally. Your detailed assessment of this student's strengths and weaknesses is essential and appreciated. Brief and generic letters, or letters intended for graduate admissions, may weaken an otherwise strong application.

Please write your recommendation on the letterhead of your department or research facility. Include with it this page, signed by the student (but not the instructions, overleaf). 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 Selection Committee, which is composed of former Churchill Scholars, who are, for the most part, academic scientists in a variety of fields. There is normally a mathematician, a physicist, a chemist, an engineer, and two different kinds of biologist.

Please note: The Churchill Scholarship is an extremely competitive award. We only accept up to two nominations from a limited number of US institutions. Therefore, all of the applications we receive are from among the very best STEM students in the country. Recommendation letters are instrumental for the Selection Committee to distinguish Churchill Scholar recipients from within a pool of exceptional scholars. While we greatly appreciate your honest assessment of an applicant's record, we would also like to know why, specifically, you have reached your conclusions about a student.

- (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 creativity and originality? It is not necessary to repeat information already included in the student's transcript or application (e.g., grades, GPA, and awards), unless you consider something particularly noteworthy or can provide additional context.
- (3) How does the applicant rank when compared to other recent students in your department or laboratory and with other students who have won major postgraduate scholarships? How would you rank the applicant in overall achievement among the students you have taught or directed in research? It is common for those writing letters of recommendation to write in superlatives, so it is important to have concrete examples and the particular rationale for your high regard.
- (4) How do you think he or she will perform in the independent research environment of a Cambridge Master's program? The Churchill Foundation does not necessarily seek so-called "well rounded" applicants and encourages people who have "interesting jagged edges" who have deep strengths in a few areas. Churchill Scholars are known not solely for their outstanding academic and research achievements 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?

Thank you again for your assistance in the selection of Churchill Scholars.