

Writing Recommendations for the Churchill

Overview: One year of study leading to a graduate degree at Cambridge University, England. Seniors and graduate students in engineering, mathematics, and/or the sciences are eligible (must be a U.S. citizen). Students submit their application in two parts. The student is responsible for submitting their application to Cambridge University, and then they must complete their Churchill application by the campus deadline. These are two separate applications, and many recommenders will be asked to write letters for each of them (the Churchill reviewers will not read or review the applications or recommendations sent to Cambridge).

Timeline: Applicants and recommenders must submit materials for the campus deadline, October 10, 2017, when a Churchill Scholarship Campus Review Committee determines which applicants the university will endorse. Each letter must be written specifically for the Churchill Scholarship and accompanied by a [cover sheet](#) that the applicant has signed (the letter writers may not just use a copy of the letter they provided for admission to Cambridge). Endorsed candidates and their recommenders will then be allowed to rework their materials until early November, when all hardcopy materials must be submitted to the National and International Scholarships Program for transmittal to the Churchill Foundation.

Guidance: The Churchill Foundation is looking for intellectual leaders as demonstrated by their academic record, evidence of independent research, the all-important letters of recommendation, and intellectual passion. The Foundation also seeks individuals who admirably will represent our country at Cambridge by their intellectual endeavors and by their participation in the life of the University of Cambridge. The selection criteria used is as follows: Course grades and GRE scores, capacity for creative work as shown by special recognition, the strength of the letters of recommendation, ability to contribute to the advancement of knowledge, and outstanding personal qualities as demonstrated by leadership, activities, and social engagement.

1. Please mention the student's research interest and projects and their possible impact to the student's field of study.
2. Why is Cambridge the best place for the student to pursue their degree?
3. How is the proposed academic program of study relevant to the candidate's scholarly and career plans?
4. What is the potential for the student to be a productive member of the discipline?
5. How would the student be a benefit to the UK?
6. If possible, please remark upon the leadership qualities of the applicant.
7. What is the ability of the student to complete projects and deliver results?
8. Is there a strong desire in the applicant to contribute to society?
9. Is there evidence of creativity and innovation in the candidate's approach to answering questions or solving problems?

