

Writing Recommendations for the Gates Cambridge

Overview: One to four years of study leading to a graduate degree at Cambridge University, England. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. U.S. and non-U.S. citizens are eligible. All applicants must apply directly to Cambridge and fill out the supplemental portion of the application to the Cambridge Trust to be considered for the award.

Timeline: We suggest applicants and recommenders submit materials for an informal early review. Please send the letter as an attachment to topscholars@illinois.edu by **September 15, 2017**. The student will then apply for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship officially in October, when your letter will need to be submitted online to Cambridge.

Guidance: The Trustees are required to award scholarships on the basis of a person's intellectual ability, leadership capacity, and desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society throughout the world by providing service to their communities and applying their talents to improve the lives of others. In selecting Gates Cambridge Scholars, the Trust looks for students of exceptional academic achievement and scholarly promise for whom advanced study at Cambridge would be particularly appropriate. The Trust expects a good match to be made between the applicant's qualifications and aspirations and what Cambridge has to offer. Successful applicants will have the ability to make a significant contribution to their discipline while in Cambridge, with a strong aptitude for research and analysis, and a creative approach to defining and solving problems.

1. Please mention the student's research interest and projects and their possible impact on 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. Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the general US/UK relationship and its pertinence to the candidate's proposed field of study?
6. How would the student be a benefit to the UK?
7. If possible, please remark upon the leadership qualities of the applicant.
8. What is the ability of the student to complete projects and deliver results?
9. Is there a strong desire in the applicant to contribute to society?
10. Is there evidence of creativity or innovation in the candidate's approach to answering questions or solving problems?

