

## **Boren Scholarship: Guidance for Recommenders**

Recommendation letters for national scholarships and fellowships are different from those that may be submitted for a campus opportunity, for a professional experience, and even for grad school. They are typically 1.5 – 2 pages long and provide a detailed account of the student as seen by that particular faculty member or other professional.

### Recommendation Deadline

February 4, 2020, 5:00pm Eastern

### Boren Scholarship Overview

Boren Scholars represent highly motivated individuals who are interested in federal national security and long-term linguistic and cultural immersion. The Boren scholarship is funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP) to address sustainable development, environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, population growth and migration, and economic competitiveness. The scholarship provides up to \$20,000 to study abroad in areas of the world considered critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad. Boren Scholarships promote long term linguistic and cultural immersion, and therefore study abroad proposals for two or more semesters are strongly encouraged. Boren Scholars must agree to the NSEP service requirement of one year of federal service. Summer-only programs must be eight (8) weeks or more and are limited to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students.

### Letter Formatting and Content

Your letter should be:

- 1 – 2 single-spaced pages (~1.5 pages is typical)
- include your FULL TITLE
- be on official department LETTERHEAD
- include a SIGNATURE (electronic fine)
- be addressed to *Boren Award Selection Panelists*

In your letter, please comment on the following, as possible/appropriate:

- How long and in what capacity(-ies) have you known the applicant?
- Applicant's academic, linguistic, personal preparation for the study abroad program, especially as they relate to Boren objectives. If possible, comment on the applicant's understanding of the relationship between his or her study abroad program and academic/career interests, as well as U.S. national security, broadly defined (again, if/as possible). <https://borenawards.org/essays#recommendations>
- Candidate's ability to adapt to a different cultural environment and to represent the U.S.
- Any other factors which you believe may have a bearing on the candidate's experience overseas.

### Other Key Points

- Applicants are required to submit two academic letters of reference, but may submit three.
- Big picture: Review committees assume these are very bright students; what a review committee needs to hear are those things that set apart a particular student from the others they will be reading about. You might consider how: the student showed unusual skill, initiative, and/or ability to be self-directed; addressed some difficult questions; demonstrates uncommon maturity, potential, or seriousness of purpose; showed resilience or adaptability; and/or developed over the duration of your relationship.

### Procedures

- Recommendation requests are sent via e-mail through the online application system. The student must input your contact information into the application before the request can be sent. *Recommenders must upload their letters directly to the Boren/IIE Slate application system as a PDF or Word document.*