

2022 Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders

**Letter of Recommendation Form**

*A program sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State*

**Instructions for the Applicant**

 Please provide this form to a teacher, supervisor, colleague and/or an adult leader and ask him or her to fill it out completely and submit it by the application deadline of **January 31, 2022.**

 Please send the completed form with other required documents to IraqExchangePrograms@state.gov by the application deadline. If the person who is recommending you prefers to send this form directly, please provide the above email address.

**Instructions for the Letter of Reference**

 The SUSI Student Leaders Program is an intensive, short term academic program for undergraduate student leaders to provide a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The five-week program consists of a series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities are complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and local volunteer opportunities. SUSI includes an academic residency component of approximately four weeks and a domestic study tour of approximately one week.  During the academic residency, students will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

 In writing a letter of recommendation, please consider the following and provide an assessment of the applicant’s suitability for this program based on the below requirements:

* Fluency in English;
* Interest in the topic of the institute;
* Between 18 and 25 years of age;
* Have at least one semester left of undergraduate studies, and therefore committed to return to their home universities following completion of the program;
* Leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;
* Serious interest in learning about the United States;
* Sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
* Commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;
* Have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;
* Maturity, responsibility, independence, confidence, open-mindedness, tolerance, thoughtfulness, and inquisitiveness;
* Willingness and ability to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel; and,
* Comfort with campus life, sharing living accommodations, and making adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.

**Letter of Recommendation Form**

***(To be completed by Referee)***

**Instructions for Reference:**

Our program features a special kind of educational experience abroad. This applicant will be involved in a youth exchange program in the U.S. with close contact with young people and adults in a challenging academic environment that will require cross-cultural adjustment and an extended period of living as a member of a host family. To succeed, the applicant must have a high degree of motivation and the ability to adjust to people of different social and cultural backgrounds. Please be very honest in your assessment of the applicant to help us to determine whether the applicant is ready for this kind of program. Please indicate, by checking the appropriate spaces, your estimate of the applicant’s characteristics. If you wish to add comments, please do so on another sheet of paper. **Your answers will remain confidential**.

**Applicant Information.**

1. Name of applicant:
2. Name of the University / college:
3. Year at the college:
4. Applicant’s email address:

**Referee Information.**

1. Name of Referee:
2. Address:
3. Telephone:
4. Email Address:
5. Job Title & Place of Employment:
6. In what capacity have you known the applicant?

1. How long have you known the applicant? From year: to year:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Average** | **Poor** | **Unknown** |
| Consideration for and interest in others and their views |  |  |  |  |  |
| Common sense and good judgment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leadership potential |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to take direction cheerfully |  |  |  |  |  |
| Takes Initiative and Responsibility |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to adjust to and cope with new situations |  |  |  |  |  |
| Intellectual curiosity and imagination |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to express self |  |  |  |  |  |
| Participation in community and extracurricular activities |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to follow through with projects |  |  |  |  |  |

**Please write your responses to the following questions in English.**

1. What is this applicant’s biggest strength? What is this applicant’s biggest weakness?

1. How well will the applicant be able to adapt to living with a host family from a different culture and interact with people who have very different values?
2. What challenges might the applicant face in participating on this program?
3. Please comment on the applicant’s overall suitability for the program, including leadership and interpersonal skills.

 **Signature and date:**

*Please submit this reference form back to the applicant before the deadline. All forms must be submitted directly by the applicant.*

*Thank you!*

