

# Recommendation Form

## For the Student

Prepare this form for each of your recommenders and provide them with a copy when requesting a recommendation from them.

**1) Your Full Name:**

**2) Language Applying for:**

**3) Provide the following information about your recommender below.**

**Full Name:**

**Institution/Organizational Affiliation:**

**Relationship to You:**

**Email Address:**

**Telephone:**

**4) Do you wish to waive any right to examine this letter of recommendation?**

Yes, I waive any rights to examine this letter of recommendation

No

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## For the Recommender

Dear recommender,

You have been asked to serve as a reference for a student applying to the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program. The CLS Program is an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program for American students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities. The program includes intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences designed to promote rapid language gains.

The CLS Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The goal of ECA is to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations. The CLS Program is part of a U.S. government effort to expand dramatically the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages. Students of diverse disciplines and majors are encouraged to apply. Participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship period, and later apply their critical language skills in their future professional careers.

### What are we looking for?

Award recipients are selected on the basis of merit, with consideration for:

- Academic record and potential to succeed in a rigorous academic setting;
- Commitment to language learning;
- Connection between target language and career/academic goals;
- Ability to adapt to an intensive program and a challenging cultural environment; and
- Contribution to the CLS Program and program goals.

In the CLS application, students are asked to submit short essays addressing these criteria, including their motivation for applying to the program, their academic and professional goals, and their ability to be successful on a rigorous, group-based overseas program. During the selection process, applications are evaluated based on each student's application as well as the input of two recommenders.

## Recommendation form

As someone who knows the applicant, we ask that you provide answers to the questions below. When responding to each question, we encourage you to share specific examples that will help provide the selection panel with a better understanding of the applicant's ability to be a successful participant on the CLS Program.

Please prepare a letter addressing each of the following five points:

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
2. The CLS Program is an intensive, **group-based language and culture program**. This program requires students to study a language intensively in a situation of prolonged interaction with fellow students and to function in a challenging social and cultural environment. **Please comment on the applicant's emotional and social maturity and their ability to cooperate with a group of people.**
3. The ability to function in an immersive, often ambiguous, cultural climate is very important to a participant's success. **Maturity, flexibility and a willingness to engage** with and adapt to a new environment and culture is critical for every participant on the CLS Program. **Please describe the applicant's open-mindedness toward new ideas and the applicant's ability to adapt to new situations.**
4. CLS Program institutes cover approximately one academic year of university-level language coursework during an eight- to ten-week program. Please comment on the applicant's **overall preparedness for a rigorous academic program**. If you are familiar with the applicant's language-learning abilities, please also comment on the applicant's aptitude for learning a new language.
5. What additional **strengths** do you think the applicant will bring to the CLS group?

Additionally, please provide a response to the following prompt:

- Do you have any **concerns** about the applicant's ability to successfully complete the CLS program?

## Send this form, along with your completed recommendation to:

ATTN: CLS Program (Recommendation)  
 American Councils for International Education  
 1828 L St NW Ste 1200  
 Washington DC 20036-5136

**Alternatively**, you may email it to: [cls@americancouncils.org](mailto:cls@americancouncils.org)