

Check list for letter of support

The following questions are designed as suggestions of what should be included in the letter of support. The reviewer may choose whether to answer each question individually or to provide a general evaluation. In the latter case, the questions below should still be answered.

1. How did you meet the applicant and what is your assessment based on?
2. How would you assess the applicant's degree in general and with regard to the subject of her doctoral degree in particular in comparison to other graduates with the same degree? What are the applicant's unique strengths?
3. How would you assess the applicant's ability to complete a doctoral thesis or independent postdoctoral research projects?
4. How does the applicant's planned project (doctoral thesis or research project) fit into her career plan? How might she proceed after completing the project? What employment opportunities would be open to the applicant at your institute, at similar institutes or in industry after she has completed the project?
5. How would you assess the following aspects of the applicant's proposed topic and work plan?
 - a) academic value
 - b) proposed methods
 - c) difficulty
 - d) feasibility of completion within the funding period
 - e) applicant's future prospects
 - f) availability of office space
 - g) required equipment or travel budget
6. other
7. Overall assessment: especially deserving of funding – deserving of funding – not deserving of funding