Writing Recommendations for the Churchill

**Overview:** One year of study leading to a graduate degree at Cambridge University, England. Seniors and graduate students in engineering, mathematics, and/or the sciences are eligible (must be a U.S. citizen). Students must submit their application in two parts. The student is responsible for submitting their application to Cambridge University, and then they must complete their Churchill application by the campus deadline.

**Timeline:** Applicants and recommenders must submit materials for the campus deadline, October 8, 2015. A Churchill Scholarship Campus Review Committee will then determine which applicants the university will endorse. Endorsed candidates will then be allowed to work on their application materials up to November 9, 2015 at noon. The national Churchill Foundation Scholarship Committee will select students for phone interviews in January 2016, and the final decisions will be made between March 1st and April 15th.

**Guidance:** The Churchill Foundation is looking for intellectual leaders as demonstrated by the academic record, evidence of independent research, the all-important letters of recommendation, and intellectual passion. The Foundation also seeks individuals who admirably will represent our country at Cambridge by their intellectual endeavors and by their participation in the life of the University of Cambridge. The selection criteria used is as follows: Course grades and GRE scores, capacity for creative work as shown by special recognition, the strength of the letters of recommendation, ability to contribute to the advancement of knowledge, and outstanding personal qualities as demonstrated by leadership, activities, and social engagement.

1. Please mention the student’s research interest and projects and their possible impact to 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. How would the student be a benefit to the UK?
6. If possible, please remark upon the leadership qualities of the applicant.
7. What is the ability of the student to complete projects and deliver results?
8. Is there a strong desire in the applicant to contribute to society?
9. Is there evidence of creativity and innovation in the candidate’s approach to answering questions or solving problems?