Letter of Appraisal
For Doctoral Awards

Name of applicant

Address
Line 1: Dept of History
City/Municipality: Guelph
Line 2: University of Guelph
Prov/State: ON Postal/ZIP: N1G 2W1 Country: Canada

Telephone

Note: Also available as a fillable PDF file at www.sshrc.ca.

The information you provide is for adjudication purposes only. It is retained in the applicant's file and is protected by the federal Privacy Act or by corresponding provincial legislation. Federal legislation permits reviewer comments to be disclosed to the candidate, except for references to other persons and their identities, and except for the name and personal information of the reviewer. Provincial legislation may vary.

I have ☐ read ☐ not read the applicant's program of study.

Comments

[redacted] is one of the top two of the 100 MA students I have supervised or taught over the last 10 years. She is also the top of her present cohort. I have rarely seen such an impressive student. She regularly surpasses the normal expectations for a student at her stage of her career, demonstrating advanced writing, analytical and research skills. I have submitted the research essay which she wrote for me last Fall for our departmental award for best graduate essay. She already possesses the skills she needs for her project in [redacted] and is acquiring [redacted]. She spent the summer in [redacted] on a SSHRC Michael Smith Supplement Travel Scholarship working on archival sources (something not required of our students at the Master's level) and is already familiar with many of the sources which she will use for her doctoral research. She has also made contact with many of the leading scholars in [redacted] history, many of whom have told me how impressed they are with her abilities and focus. [redacted] is also very active in a leadership role among the graduate students at Guelph. She has a maturity and professionalism which make her the equal of many of our best doctoral students.

[redacted]'s proposed research, which builds effectively on work undertaken for her Master's thesis, is in a new, exciting and challenging area in [redacted] history. Gender history is a relatively under-developed field in [redacted] and the study of secondary women even more so, especially for the medieval period. [redacted]'s work will build on previous research by [redacted] historians which has examined the political bonds between nobles and consider this from a gendered perspective, moving the study far beyond the narrowly political. It has the potential to be extremely influential in developing new approaches to the [redacted] past and to produce work of highly publishable quality both in the form of a monograph and refereed articles. It will also make an extremely significant contribution to the flourishing field of [redacted]. [redacted] shows every sign of becoming a highly accomplished historian and I am happy to give her my very highest recommendation for support.

I have known the applicant in my capacity as MA adviser [redacted] years.

Name of referee (grant)

[redacted]

Subject field

Department/Division: History

Academic rank

Organization: University of Guelph

E-mail

Telephone number 519 824-4120 ext [redacted]

Date 19 October 2010

Signature

Doctoral Award (PDF 2010)
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada
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For Doctoral Awards

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I have ☐ read ☐ not read the applicant's program of study.

Comments

[Redacted] has asked me to support his application for a SSHRC doctoral award, and I am very happy to do so. I have known [Redacted] since September 2009, primarily in relation to the supervision of his PhD and his performance in IDEV*6800, which he took with me during the Fall Semester of 2009. My overall impression is that [Redacted] is an exceptionally strong student whose proposed field of research will make an important contribution to the study of politics, governance and international development. [Redacted]'s proposal aims to understand the politics of implementing alternative ways of measuring economic performance that go beyond standardized indicators, such as income and expenditure surveys and GDP. His empirical focus is Bhutan, a country whose government is now using the concept of 'gross national happiness' to measure and evaluate its performance in relation to a wide range of policy fields, including health, education, employment and economic policy. Drawing upon concepts used in the study of complex adaptive systems and development administration, [Redacted]'s research will make an important contribution to the study of poverty, governance and development. I have no doubt that [Redacted] will produce work of exceptionally high quality. He has already shown that he can work in challenging field settings, having recently conducted field studies in Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Bhutan. He also has very good contacts with the Government of Bhutan, which will be essential for undertaking the proposed study. He has now co-authored 11 publications, and he is awaiting decisions about two more that are currently under review. [Redacted]'s PhD coursework in 2009-2010 was outstanding, and he has impressed all of his instructors and committee members with whom he has worked to date. His final grades in the two core political science PhD courses were 91% and 92%, and he has now successfully completed the departmental qualifying exams. In my own class, [Redacted]'s written assignments demonstrated an ability to understand and assess the theoretical assumptions and inconsistencies of major strands in development thought, including classical liberalism, neo-classical theory, Marxism, neo-Marxism, feminism and political ecology. [Redacted] writes with clarity and depth. He has a critical sense of theory, evidence and methodology, and uses these skills to pursue questions that have important bearing on the study of politics and international development. In class and in conversation, he raises important questions that require new lines of theoretical and empirical inquiry. In short, I would not hesitate to support [Redacted] in the strongest possible way.

I have known the applicant in my capacity as PhD advisor and instructor for 1 years.

Name of referee (print): [Redacted]

Subject field: [Redacted]

Department/Division: Political Science

Academic rank: [Redacted]

Organization: University of Guelph

E-mail: [Redacted]

Date: 22 October 2010

Signature: [Redacted]

Personal information will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program:

Doctoral Awards (PDF 2010)

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