GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

GUIDE FOR REFEREES

References are required to help assessors evaluate a candidate's suitability for a Government of Ireland International Education Scholarship (GOI-IES). They are one of the assessment criteria for the programme and are worth 15% of the total marks available. To increase the applicants' chances of success, references should clearly demonstrate how the applicants match the candidate profile in the call document, quoted below. Vague, generic or irrelevant content will decrease the candidates' chances of success. If you think that you do not know the candidate well enough, or you cannot adequately support their application, please inform them as soon as possible, so that they may find an alternative referee.

Candidate profile (Section 4 in the Call document)

> *Applicants are expected to demonstrate:*
> - *a record of outstanding academic achievement;*
> - *excellent communication skills;*
> - *participation in extracurricular activities, for example, humanitarian work, politics, arts or sport; and*
> - *a strong rationale for pursuing their study in Ireland that indicates how a GOI-IES would align with their longer-term goals.*

References should be between 500 and 1,000 words and contain enough specific information to support the candidate's application.

It is recommended that your reference should answer the following questions:

- How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity?
- What are your professional background and qualifications?
- What makes the applicant particularly suitable for a GOI-IES, in light of the candidate profile described in the call document?
- What other information about the candidate is relevant for their GOI-IES application?

References must be written in English. If you are more comfortable writing in another language, your reference must be translated, and the translation notarised. You must also review the translated reference and send it to the candidate yourself. Please note that currently the GOI-IES application portal does not have a feature whereby referees can upload

the references themselves. It is the candidates who upload the references you have provided to them.

Your contact details must include an organisational postal address and email address. Should this not be possible, for example, if you have retired and no longer have a work email address, please provide your personal contact details and briefly explain why a work email address is not available.

The reference document must have an official header; if this is not possible, a very brief explanation can be included about the reason for this.

It is expected that referees have no familial, financial or close personal relationship with the applicant which could compromise the impartiality of the reference they provide.