



LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATION FORM

To be completed by a professor who has taught the candidate in French.

Candidate's name:

To the professor:

IFE is a French, not-for-profit organization based in Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium, which conceives and operates international educational programs. IFE's Field Study and Internship Program is an 18-week, structured academic semester that makes use of the professional workplace as an opportunity for students to participate in contemporary French or Belgian societies and to carry out a field research project linked by an individually tailored placement process to their academic and/or career goals.

IFE admits students of all academic disciplines and actively seeks a student group diverse in talent, background and personality.

Your student has applied to this program, which includes five weeks of intensive preparation prior to the internship period. The internship experience itself gives rise to and is validated by an independent field study paper prepared under the direction of an individual research advisor. The emotional and organizational demands of the semester are significant. Applicants are judged on the basis of linguistic readiness and overall academic merit.

You may learn more about the program in the descriptive literature we have sent to your student, or from our website.

IFE appreciates your commenting in as much detail as possible on the following:

- The context in which you have known the candidate.

- The candidate's work habits and sense of organization.

- Your perception of the candidate in a group situation.

- The candidate's ability to accomplish a major piece of independent research.



LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATION FORM

• Please rate the candidate's overall abilities by using the following scale:

- 5 Native proficiency
- 4+ Strong fluency/Strong idiomatic vocabulary
- 4 Fluency: syntax has been fully assimilated
- 3+ Strong proficiency
- 3 Basic proficiency/ At ease in general conversation
- 2 Good base, still needs significant work

• Please also rate numerically (using the above scale):

- The candidate's ability to express him or herself orally in French.
- The candidate's written French.
- The candidate's ability to comprehend colloquial French spoken rapidly in a group situation.

• Please list four adjectives that describe the candidate to you:

.....

• In what percentile of your class group was the candidate?

.....
.....

• Would you recommend the candidate?:

- Enthusiastically
- Without reserve
- With some hesitation

• We value all additional comments:

.....
.....

Your Name:

Your Title/Department:

Your Institution:

You taught/supervised the candidate from **to**

Your Signature:



LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATION FORM

RECORDED CONVERSATION IN FRENCH

For diagnostic purposes, all applicants to IFE's Field Study and Internship Program are asked to make an audio recording of a French language conversation with a French-speaking university professor. The purpose of this informal exercise is to provide IFE with a first-hand impression of your spoken French. Such an impression can play a useful role in the placement process as IFE works to match successful applicants with internships, as well as in preparation for the academic portion of the program.

Note that admission decisions are NOT made on the basis of ranked French skills.

Please show this sheet to the person who has agreed to help you record this conversation.

This should be a spontaneous conversation, with only general preparation ahead of time, and recorded without editing.

A good sense of communication is more important than perfect grammar.

Total time: approximately 15 minutes

The conversation should cover two general subjects even though, as a conversation, there is no imposed form or structure.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Some indications:

Talk about yourself, where you are from, your family, your family life, what regions of the US or the world you like, travel experiences you have had, what you like to do with free time, what you do when you are down in the dumps in order to feel better, etc.

Or talk about experiences you have had adjusting to a different environment, different people, different ways, etc.

Talk about why you want to come to France or Belgium, your academic interests, your career goals, and so forth.

Or talk about anything else you would like to talk about.

II. CURRENT EVENTS IN FRANCE OR BELGIUM, EUROPE AND THE WORLD

Talk about whatever you would like on the subject of France or Belgium and Europe today, or transatlantic relations, problems facing US society or French or Belgian society or the world, any topic of current events, what kind of press coverage you see about what goes on in France, Belgium and Europe, what sources of information you rely upon, or any other topics in this broad subject area.

To the person who has agreed to carry on this conversation with the applicant:

Thank you for your cooperation with this important exercise, the results of which are useful to IFE in a number of ways. Your role is simply to help construct an interesting conversation, through questions, responses, and other ways to encourage the applicant to open up and talk freely in French. IFE's objective in breaking the conversation roughly into two parts is to be able to hear the applicant speak about themselves as well as about substantive, less personal matters. Of course, it does not serve a candidate's interest if the recorded conversation conveys an inaccurate impression of his or her level of linguistic competence.