SPECIFIC INPUT REQUESTED

- The individual who has requested this recommendation does not currently hold the minimum cumulative GPA required for this program.
- Overseas Study allows students who do not meet the stated program minimum GPA requirement to still apply for the program if they feel there are extenuating circumstances that should be taken into account. We invite them to provide additional information in their application essays and ask that at least one letter of recommendation speak directly to their ability to be successful on the program.
- Please comment on the student’s overall academic abilities and provide your opinion of the applicant’s ability to pursue university-level coursework in a foreign country.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR WRITING

- The academic experience at a foreign university will differ markedly from what students are used to. They will have to adjust to courses that lack syllabi or assignments and final grades that depend on a single exam. They must have the initiative and discipline to search out relevant readings and pace their own work.

- Life abroad presents challenges. Maintaining equilibrium in the face of changes in diet, hygiene and comfort requires tolerance, flexibility and humor. Because participation in overseas study brings potential for emotional stress, it is important to identify students who may have difficulties coping with the experience.

- Your candid appraisal of the student's academic and personal strengths and weaknesses is essential. The trauma of failing in the foreign country can be more severe than the disappointment of not being accepted.

- If your experience has not enabled you to assess aspects of the student's potential for a successful study abroad experience, indicate that fact in your letter so that the selection committee can explore those areas in greater detail in their interviews.
To the student: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 opens many student records for the student's inspection. The law permits you to sign this waiver relinquishing your right to inspect letters of recommendation.

Sign below if you give up the right to read this recommendation. Do not sign if you wish to read it.

Student's signature _______________________________ Date ________________________