

Form for an

Correct at: July 2013

Expert reference for a doctoral scholarship application.....
Applicant: Family name, first name.....
Applicant's PhD project title.....
Expert referee: Family name, first name, subject area.....
Expert referee: Work address, email address, telephone number**General remarks:**

As the expert referee, we ask you to assess all of the following points and comment on them as fully as possible. If there is not enough space in the boxes provided, please add any further remarks at the end of your report.

The Scholarship Department of the Heinrich Böll Foundation supports the recipients of its doctoral scholarships in their research process, and is particularly committed to assuring the quality of supervision.

The two expert referees must be full or associate professors or lecturers with professorial qualifications (Privatdozentin/Privatdozent). One of the referees must be the applicant's main supervisor. If a second or associate supervisor has already been appointed, she or he should ideally provide the other reference.

Information on the application procedure:

Bärbel Karger, tel.: +49 (0)30 28534-400, email: studienwerk@boell.de, web: www.boell.de/studienwerk

1. Are you the main supervisor for this PhD thesis?

☐ yes ☐ no

Questions 2 to 6 are only for main supervisors:

2. What kinds of supervision and support do you offer?

Weekly colloquiums

☐ yes ☐ no

Formal research training group

☐ yes ☐ no

Cross-disciplinary methodology seminars or similar

☐ yes ☐ no

Arranging conference participation

☐ yes ☐ no

Arranging publication opportunities

☐ yes ☐ no

Other kinds of supervision or support; comments:

3. Does your institution offer its doctoral students additional supervision and support as part of structured doctoral programmes?

☐ yes ☐ no

If so, what kinds of supervision and support?

4. Have you signed a learning agreement with the doctoral student?

☐ yes ☐ no

If so, please enclose a copy of the agreement with this reference.

If not, please explain the arrangements you have agreed with your doctoral student in order to assure continuity of supervision. How do you ensure that the quality of supervision remains high (for example if the applicant does not live close to your institution)?

5. At present, how many doctoral students are assigned to you as their main supervisor?

_____(number)

Comments:

6. Please confirm that the applicant has been admitted to doctoral studies by your university.

☐ yes ☐ no

If not, please comment:

The remaining questions are for main supervisors and second (associate) supervisors:

7. In what context did you make the applicant's acquaintance?

Comments:

8. How long have you known the applicant, and on what situations (for example participation in seminars or colloquiums) do you base the present assessment?

Comments:

9. Does the applicant's academic performance to date indicate a special aptitude for academic work?

yes ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ no

Comments:

10. Does the applicant's written work or other academic performance to date suggest that she or he will deliver outstanding academic performance in future?

yes ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ no

Comments:

11. Please briefly summarise the applicant's research topic, including the key hypotheses if possible:

12. In your opinion, is the applicant's research project likely to make an important, innovative, and original contribution to research?

yes ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ no

If so, what will that contribution be?

13. Can the project build on specialist competence and skills (including methodological and theoretical knowledge) that the applicant has already acquired, for example through a Master's dissertation?

yes ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ no

Comments:

If you feel that such specialised competence may not have been acquired, how will the applicant gain the necessary skills? What kind of support will she or he receive in doing so?

Comments:

14. Does the timetable proposed by the applicant do justice to the topic? Can she or he realistically expect to complete the work within the regular scholarship duration of two to three years?

yes ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ no

If you feel it may not be realistic, would you consider a shorter or longer period to be appropriate? Please state why.

Comments:

15. How do you assess the current progress of the research project – in which areas is the applicant's work already well advanced, and in which is she or he still at an initial stage? At present, what are the immediate next steps that you advise?

Comments:

16. Does the applicant's doctoral project form part of a larger research project?
If so, which?

☐ yes ☐ no

17. In your opinion, will the applicant be able to devote all her or his energy to the research project if awarded a scholarship?

☐ yes ☐ no

Comments:

Questions 18 + 19: Only for applications to participate in the Heinrich Böll Foundation research cluster “Transformation Research: Research for and on the ‘Great Transformation’”:

18. How do you assess the relevance of the doctoral research project to our research cluster “Transformation Research: Research for and on the ‘Great Transformation’”? Please explain how the content of the doctoral project relates to the research cluster:
19. The Heinrich Böll Foundation’s research cluster “Transformation Research: Research for and on the ‘Great Transformation’” aims to create a network of established and younger researchers interested in this topic. We wish to advance dialogue between the disciplines involved and between research and society/politics/industry, and to make the research cluster’s findings accessible to a wider public.

For this reason, we are also approaching the supervisors of doctoral students: Would you be interested in working with us within a network of this kind? Do you have ideas or suggestions regarding the form that such a network could take?

20. **Only for reports on projects that have been under way for longer than twelve months:**

Has the timetable been adhered to so far?

☐ yes ☐ no

If not, what has led to delays?

As matters stand, do you expect the thesis to be completed within the next two years?

☐ yes ☐ no

If not, please state the possible reasons for delay.

21. **Overall assessment of the applicant's personal and academic suitability, and any further remarks:**

.....
Place, date

.....
Signature

Please send the signed reference, in the original, direct to our postal address:

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung e.V.
Studienwerk
Schumannstr. 8
10117 Berlin
Germany

Alternatively – and preferably – you can send it as a PDF file to: karger@boell.de

In the applicant's interest, please bear in mind that your report must reach us before the deadline (postmark 1 March or 1 September) ***in order for the application to be processed in due time.***

Thank you very much for your help on this matter, and for supporting our scholarship programme.