

## Shad2024 Reference Outline

Shad Canada requires every applicant to provide a reference. This assessment helps our evaluators review if an applicant is a good fit for the program.

A reference is someone who knows the applicant, like a Teacher, Guidance Counsellor, Community Elder, or any other adult in a mentorship role, who can provide a fair and honest assessment of the applicant's strengths and personal character. (A reference may not be a relative to the applicant.)

The reference will complete an online form, ranking the student on several subject matters. The rankings are quantitative (exceptional, above average, average, below average or unable to assess) and qualitative (written comments, with a limit of 200 words per category).

The categories for rankings include:

- **Approach to Learning:** Curiosity, enthusiasm to learn, ability to teach others, etc.
- **Personal Accomplishments:** Extracurricular involvement, work experience, entrepreneurship, volunteerism, etc.
- **Communication Skills:** Both oral and written, motivational ability, public speaking skills, etc.
- **Creativity:** Originality, innovation, artistic/musical ability, problem solving skills, etc.
- **Ability to work with others:** Collaboration, leadership roles, engagement, supportive, respectful, etc.
- **Maturity:** Independence, self-awareness, time management, adaptability, etc.

Details for the reference process:

- Immediately after an applicant submits a reference name and contact information, an email is generated and sent to that contact with a link to an online reference form.
- References are kept confidential. Applicants cannot see the submission of the reference, only if it has been completed.
- There is no "save draft" option for a reference submission. Once the reference form is started it must be completed. Please consider drafting out thoughts before starting the submission.

**Reference Submission deadline** is December 6, 2023.

(Note: the student application deadline is December 1.)

