
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 completes 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, collaborative learning, etc.
- **Student Experiences & Accomplishments:** Extracurricular/community involvement, initiative, volunteerism, work experience, entrepreneurship, fundraising, etc.
- **Creativity and Problem-Solving Skills:** Originality, design, innovation, artistic/musical, problem solving, synthesis, etc.
- **Ability to work with others:** Collaborative approach, leadership, team engagement, inclusive and supportive, respectful communication, mentorship, etc.
- **Maturity:** Independence, self-awareness, time management, critical thinking, adaptability, etc.

The process:

- Applicants must submit a reference name and contact information, and an email is generated and sent with a link to an online form.
- Content submitted by references are confidential. Applicants can see the form has been submitted but cannot see the content of the form.
- There is no "save draft" option. Once the form is started it must be completed. We encourage references to consider a draft before starting a submission.

Reference submission deadline is December 6, 2024.

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