Gulf Research Program Early-Career Research Fellowship
Guidance for Letters of Recommendation

Gulf Research Program Early-Career Research Fellowships are intended to support scientists, engineers, and health professionals conducting research relevant to oil system safety, environmental quality, and human health in the Gulf of Mexico and the United States outer continental shelf. This opportunity will facilitate the academic, intellectual, and professional development of individuals who have outstanding scholarship and leadership promise. The fellowship will recognize early-career researchers for past performance and their future potential for substantial contributions to advancing scientific understanding. The fellowship provides funding and mentorship at the critical pre-tenure phase of a fellow’s career.

All reference letters must be submitted as a PDF attachment via email to GulfFellowships@nas.edu, using the applicant’s name as the subject line, by 5:00 pm ET on February 27, 2015. Letters submitted by other means (including mail or fax) will be disregarded. If you are unable to provide a letter by the application deadline, please contact the applicant immediately so he or she can designate another reference.

All reference letters should be written on letterhead stationery and signed. Letters should go beyond what can be learned from the applicant’s resume/CV and provide specific examples about the following:

- How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity.
- The applicant’s technical and/or leadership accomplishments and relative standing of the applicant among his or her peers.
- The applicant’s ability to communicate, both orally and in writing, and to interact with both individuals and groups.
- The potential of this applicant to become a leader in his or her chosen research field.
- The likely impact of the fellowship on the applicant’s professional goals.
- Any other information you believe is relevant to the application.

If you have been identified as the applicant’s intended fellowship mentor, your letter should address all of the above. In addition, please describe your goals for the mentor-mentee relationship and how you think the applicant can benefit professionally from mentoring.

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