

Grinnell College
Watson Fellowship recommendation form

Applicant's name: _____

Recommender's name and email address: _____

To the recommender: You have been asked to **complete this two-page recommendation form and provide one to two paragraphs of comments** for the student named above, who is applying for one of Grinnell's four nominations in the Watson Fellowship competition (www.watsonfellowship.org). If this student is named as one of Grinnell's nominees, you will be asked to write a full 1-2 page letter of recommendation to be submitted before the foundation's deadline in early November.

Please submit this form to Doug Cutchins:
Hard copy: Office of Social Commitment, Grinnell College, 1233 Park Street, Grinnell, IA 50112
OR fax: (641) 269-4321
OR scan and email: cutchins@grinnell.edu
to arrive by 5:00pm (Central) on Monday, September 19

As a part of the Watson application process, the student named above will submit a signed statement which reads as follows: "I hereby waive my right to view faculty and institutional letters of recommendation or endorsement which are written for the purpose of this award competition. While copies of these letters may be provided to me by the authors, I understand that this is done as a courtesy by the author and does not affect this waiver." Therefore, no student waiver is provided with this form.



Characteristics of a Watson Fellow (required)

To what extent has the student demonstrated the following characteristics? Circle the answer that most closely fits your impression of the student.

Leadership (the capacity to command a following for what one thinks, does, or creates)

All the time Usually Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

Resourcefulness (able to deal promptly and effectively with problems)

All the time Usually Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

Imagination or vision (The power of framing new and striking conceptions or perceiving and conveying them)

All the time Usually Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

Independence (Self-reliance; freedom from the influence, guidance, or control of another or others)

All the time Usually Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

Integrity (Strong ethical character and trustworthiness)

All the time Usually Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

Responsibility / Emotional Maturity (Following through on work or plans without guidance or superior authority; grounded individual)

All the time Usually Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

Courage (A boldness of spirit, openness to new and challenging circumstances, and perseverance in pursuit of a goal)

All the time Usually Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

Characteristics of a Watson Project (optional)

Have you read a draft of the student's Watson Project Proposal?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Is the project organic, growing from the student's background, interests, and activities?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Is the project inspiring, providing the energy to sustain and propel the fellow through the ups and downs of the year?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Is the project transformative, focusing on intentional travel and interaction with the world's peoples, and not dominated by formal research?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Does the project provide the student with a time-out, capitalizing on this unique opportunity to pursue a deeply personal interest without the constraints of institutional structure, research process, or professional expectations?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Is the project timeless, growing out of the student's deeply-rooted passion rather than bubbling up from a recent college class or activity?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Is the project bold, giving the student the chance to fail, recognizing that the Watson is more about the process of searching rather than specific research achievements?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Is the project realistic, balancing boldness/drive/passion with pragmatism?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Does the project help the student connect with the world?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Is the project peripatetic, allowing the student to take full advantage of human and institutional resources around the world?

Yes No Comments (if any):

Is the project personally significant to the student?

Yes No Comments (if any):



Additionally, please provide **one to two paragraphs** of comments on this applicant, explaining your ratings above and noting whether or not you think this student and their project matches the characteristics the foundation seeks in Watson Fellows. Specific examples and anecdotes are particularly helpful to the committee.