RECOMMENDATION FORM

Mission: The Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Program offers college graduates of "unusual promise" a year of independent, purposeful exploration and travel -- in international settings new to them -- to enhance their capacity for resourcefulness, imagination, openness, and leadership and to foster their humane and effective participation in the world community.

The following questions are especially relevant when selecting fellows for the significant, often challenging, year proposed by the Watson mission. Please answer each question as fully as possible, elaborating as necessary. You may also add additional comments at the end of this form. We appreciate the effort required to write a thoughtful and personal recommendation. Thank you in advance for your candor and time.

Name and Title:

1. How long have you known the nominee?

2. In what capacity have you known them?

3. The Watson Fellowship uses the term “Unusual Promise” to mean a collection of characteristics including leadership, independence, resourcefulness, imagination, openness, and integrity. How is the nominee unusually promising in a field of exceptional nominees? Please use examples where possible. (200 word count limit)

4. What legacy or deep impression, if any, has this student left on you or your campus? (200 word count limit)

5. In what way do you believe the Watson Fellowship would be a transformative experience for the nominee? (200 word count limit)

6. What evidence can you provide of the nominee's investment in the proposed project beyond academic coursework? (200 word count limit)

7. The very premise of the nominee's project may be upended as they encounter it "on the ground". How does the nominee deal with difficult and changing conditions? Do you believe that they will adapt well, even thrive, under unexpected conditions? (200 word count limit)

8. What, if anything, gives you pause about sending the nominee on a year-long solo pursuit that will include moments of loneliness, failure and even illness? What are your reservations? (200 word count limit)

9. Please share any additional thoughts that you would like us to know or consider. (200 word count limit)