

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Einstein Drive
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-2013

INSTRUCTIONS for REFEREES

_____ has selected you as a reference for his/her application to be a Member in the School of Social Science during the 2012-2013 academic year. We would appreciate your evaluation of the candidate's proposed research, and his or her ability to carry it out.

Please prepare your reference as a PDF attachment, and email to sssrecs@ias.edu, with "Reference for CANDIDATE'S NAME" in the subject line. Also, be sure to include your own name, title and institution within the text of the reference letter.

Reference emails must be received by November 1, 2011.

Background

Each year, the School of Social Science invites around fifteen to twenty scholars from a large applicant pool. The group is interdisciplinary and international, and scholars are expected to pursue their own research. A completed doctorate or equivalent is required of all applicants.

The following thematic focus for 2012-13 is neither an exclusive nor excluding theme; it is expected that only one-third of the accepted scholars will pursue work relating to this theme. We describe it below in case it is helpful to you in composing your reference letter.

Economics and Politics

Economic and political matters are obviously closely connected. Indeed, the disciplines of economics and political science have their common origin in the field of political economy, which was premised on this interrelationship. For many decades, however, each discipline took rather little notice of the other; the subjects evolved in more-or-less parallel universes. That has changed in recent years, which have seen a renaissance in the study of economics and politics together. Thus, for example, scholars have been investigating how political alignments induce and constrain economic policy—and, conversely, how economic conditions shape the growth of political movements and coalitions. We anticipate assembling a diverse group of eight to twelve scholars to examine positive issues like these, as well as normative questions, such as which political systems best promote economic welfare. We are also interested in research on the history of political economy and political economists, the theories advanced in that field and their pertinence to what counts as political economy today.

Should you wish more information about the Institute for Advanced Study, please visit our website at www.ias.edu.