

## Example of Reference Letter for an Master's student applying for a NSERC Doctoral scholarship

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I am pleased to write this letter in support of *Student Name's* application for an NSERC PGS D scholarship. I have known *Student Name* since November, 2008, when she first approached me to discuss joining my research team. *Student Name* has very rapidly proved herself to be a superb scholar. In her first semester of graduate studies she produced the nicest literature review I have had the pleasure of reading - it summarized and critically evaluated more than 60 advanced journal articles and technical books on a wide range of topics relevant to her research area. As a testament to her skills, the course instructor (who works in the field of water management) commented to me that he felt like he understood my research area for the first time - despite having read several previous such efforts. *Student Name's* academic excellence has been recognized by her winning prestigious NSERC and FQRNT scholarships.

Despite the early stage of her career, *Student Name* has a manuscript in preparation from research she completed as an undergraduate. I have read her contribution to the paper (she is waiting on co-authors at this point), and it is articulate, insightful, and innovative. I expect that it will have an important impact when it is published. *Student Name* has also presented results from her masters research at top international conferences such as the Association of American Geographers, and the American Geophysical Union.

*Student Name's* proposed research is highly innovative both methodologically and theoretically. Her proposed research will considerably improve our understanding of controls on wildfire in Great Lakes - St. Lawrence forests, and will provide guidance for ongoing conservation and restoration efforts. Specifically, the application of multi-proxy and multi-scale techniques will provide unique insights into how bottom-up controls interact to affect the wildfire regime. It will also provide a template for research in other mixed severity fire regimes.

On top of being a superb young scholar, *Student Name* is highly engaged in her student community. She is a resource to other members of her lab (including some who are more senior to her), and she is well-liked by her students and peers. She has been a joy to work with during her Masters research.

*Student Name* is a highly deserving candidate for an NSERC scholarship, and I have no reservations in recommending her to you.