



IAN AXFORD (NEW ZEALAND) FELLOWSHIPS IN PUBLIC POLICY

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS OF REFERENCE

For Fellows in New Zealand in 2027

INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREES

Please email your letter of reference to the Programme Manager, Fulbright New Zealand, email: fellowships@fulbright.org.nz **no later than 10am Tuesday 12 April 2026 (New Zealand Time)**.

If the candidate is short-listed for interview, a member of the Selection Committee may telephone you for additional comments.

Please assess the candidate's suitability for an Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowship in Public Policy, taking into account:

- The goals of the Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowship programme, which are:
 - to help improve the practice of public policy in New Zealand and the United States by the cross-fertilisation of ideas and experience in the two countries;
 - to reinforce New Zealand-United States links by enabling Americans of high intellectual ability and leadership potential to come to New Zealand to gain experience and build contacts in the field of public policy development; and
 - to build a network of public policy experts on both sides of the Pacific, and encourage ongoing policy exchange between New Zealand and the United States.
- the candidate's personal and intellectual qualities and professional accomplishments, self-sufficiency, and ability to adapt to a new environment.
- the candidate's project proposal, to the extent that you feel able to comment on this.

Candidates must be interested in learning from their experience in New Zealand and capable of putting to effective use in the US whatever lessons they may have learned. Candidates must show potential for leadership and for being opinion-formers in their chosen fields, and must possess a commitment to advancing international understanding.

LETTER OF REFERENCE:

Letters should be written on letterhead where possible, and must include the following details:

- Name of referee
- Position
- Work address, telephone numbers and email address
- Name of the applicant

Please provide an evaluation of the applicant's strengths and weaknesses, his/her professional accomplishments, and potential to contribute to public policy. Explain particular reasons why you think the applicant should be selected as an Ian Axford Fellow, including how you feel the proposed research will influence policy or practice in the USA.

Please specifically comment on:

1. The Applicant

- How long you have known the applicant and in what capacity
- Intellectual ability
- Professional qualifications and accomplishments
- Ability to conduct the proposed project
- Importance of fellowship to career
- Capacity for original thought, i.e. ability to initiate new ideas
- Organizational ability, self-reliance, initiative
- Ability to quickly develop effective working relationships with others
- Ability to quickly adapt to new social and cultural environments
- Leadership qualities
- Ability to communicate program results effectively.

2. The Proposed Project

- Potential for findings to influence policy or practice in the USA and New Zealand.

Please address any reservations or risks relating to this candidate's ability to be a successful Axford Fellow.