

# SCHOLARS IN THE NATION'S SERVICE INITIATIVE (SINSI) Application – Fall 2011 Selection

SINSI Scholarships are offered to qualified Princeton juniors without regard to race, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status or disability. Scholars must, however, be US citizens and expect to graduate 2013. Selected Scholars commit to complete the entire program, including a MPA degree and a two-year US federal government fellowship.

Applications must be received no later than close of business (5 p.m.) on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 to be considered by the selection committee. An application consists of:

- *Completed and Signed Form (below)*
- *Essays*
- *Official Transcript*
- *Three Letters of Recommendation*
- *Signed Waivers/Non-waivers on Letters of Recommendation*

Application with essays, transcript and Letters of Recommendation may be submitted:

- *In hard copy, single sided to SINSI Selection Committee c/o Barbara Bodine, Rm. 424 Robertson Hall, Princeton University or*
- *Scanned and sent via email to [SINSI@princeton.edu](mailto:SINSI@princeton.edu)*
- *Letters of Recommendation may be sent directly to SINSI, hardcopy or email. If submitted by student applicant, must be in a sealed/signed envelop.*

Completed applications, with some or all of the attachments and essays, may be shared with appropriate officials within the US federal government as part of the placement process.

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I certify that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and accurate. I understand that any misrepresentation will be cause for denial of consideration of application or termination of scholarship.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

University ID \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Concentration/Certificates: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a US Citizen (yes/no)? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you hold dual citizenship (yes/no)? \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign Languages: Please rate as native, high, moderate or low			
Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
1.			
2.			
3.			

Study Abroad:	Country	Institution	Time Period
1.			
2.			
3.			

Countries Visited:	Country	Purpose	Time Period
1.			
2.			
3.			

List three (3) federal agencies/departments where you would like to work as a Scholar and/or as a career:
1.
2.
3.

Have you applied/do you intend to apply to a structured federal government summer internship program? <i>Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for such internships in parallel with this application.</i> If yes, which ones?	
Department/Agency	Office/Division
1.	
2.	
3.	

Government, Public Sector or Community Activities, paid or volunteer		
Institution/organization	Position	Time Period
1.		
2.		
3.		

**College Extracurricular Activities, in descending order of significance (no more than 5)**

	Organization	Position	Time Period
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

**Other Activities or Affiliations you think merit consideration, in descending order (no more than 5)**

	Organization	Position	Time Period
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

**Awards, in descending order of significance (no more than 5)**

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

**Paid Employment, most recent first**

	Employer	Position	Time Period
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Applications must include three letters of recommendation, two academic and one from someone with who you have worked, paid/unpaid and full or part-time, in the public service sector. Guidance on letters found at website and at this application should be provided by the applicant to those requested to provide letters. *Letters must be received by close of business November 1, 2011. Please complete, sign and submit waiver form on following page of this application.*

	Name	Organization/Department/Title	Email and/or Phone
1.			
2.			
3.			

Waiver/non-Waiver on Letters of Recommendation

Under the Family Educational Rights and privacy Act of 1974, which gives registered students the right to inspect and review their educational records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of recommendation. Applicants are therefore are requested to complete the following and submit along with their application:

\_\_\_\_\_ I waive my right to inspect the contents of letter(s) of recommendation provided in support of my application for the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative (be sure to note name etc. of each recommender):

Name of Recommender: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not waive my right to inspect the contents of the following letter(s) of recommendation:

Name of Recommender: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Essays:

*Please attach responses to the following questions. All essays should be double-spaced, paginated with applicant's name on each page. Word counts below are "no more than." Applicants may use fewer, if they so choose.*

1. Explain why you want to pursue a career in federal government service. *Please include your views on what constitutes "public service" and your interest in either international relations or domestic policy.* (1000 words)
2. Describe either a personal or organizational leadership challenge you have had to deal with and how you handled it. (200 words)
3. What are the three most important classes you have taken in preparation for your public service career and why they were important? (200 words)
4. What MPA field of study or courses do you see as most relevant to your career goals? (200 words)
5. What do you believe you can contribute as a Scholar in the Nation's Service detailed to a federal agency, and what do you hope to learn? (200 words)
6. (Optional) Is there any additional information about you that you think the selection committee should know for its deliberations? (200 words)

Attachments: Guidance on Letters of Recommendation to be provided by applicant to recommenders.

SCHOLARS IN THE NATION'S SERVICE INITIATIVE  
THE WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, NEW JERSEY

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION  
DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2011

The Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative seeks to encourage, support and prepare exceptional students with a demonstrated commitment to public service with the academic tools and practical experience necessary to successfully enter and progress in career federal service with the US government. Application is open to all Princeton University U.S. citizen juniors regardless of area of concentration. This is a highly competitive selection process and your letter of recommendation will be a key element in the process.

The Initiative's Selection Committee requires a written statement of recommendation for each applicant from someone with whom they have worked on either a paid or unpaid basis, full or part time, in the public service sector, whether governmental or non-governmental. We would ask that your letter candidly discuss the applicant's strengths and weaknesses in assessing such core attributes as motivation, initiative, judgment and maturity, intellect and analytic skills, leadership and commitment to public service, and government service in particular. Specific examples are more useful than generalities.

Your letter remains confidential during the selection process. If the student applicant has *not* signed the waiver of right to inspect the recommendation, your evaluation will become accessible as part of the student's records *only* if the student is selected for the Scholars in the Nation's Service program.

Please submit your signed letter of recommendation on letterhead, if at all possible, and note clearly how long and in what capacity you know the applicant and provide the committee with your name, title, affiliation, email and phone contact information. Letters can be sent either via email to the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative at [sinsi@princeton.edu](mailto:sinsi@princeton.edu), mailed directly to the Initiative c/o Barbara Bodine, 424 Robertson Hall, Princeton University 08544, or via the applicant (please ensure the letter is in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal). Letters are due no later than November 1, 2011.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Initiative's Director, Barbara Bodine, via email at [bbodine@princeton.edu](mailto:bbodine@princeton.edu) or 609-258-7765.

SCHOLARS IN THE NATION'S SERVICE INITIATIVE  
THE WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, NEW JERSEY

ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATION  
DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2011

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The Initiative's Selection Committee requires two written statements of recommendation for each applicant from those within the academic community who has direct knowledge of their academic qualifications and commitment to service. We would ask that your letter candidly discuss the applicant's strengths and weaknesses in assessing such core attributes as motivation, initiative, judgment and maturity, intellect and analytic and writing skills, leadership and commitment to public service, and government service in particular. Specific examples are more useful than generalities.

Your letter remains confidential during the selection process. If the student applicant has *not* signed the waiver of right to inspect the recommendation, your evaluation will become accessible as part of the student's records *only* if the student is selected for the Scholars in the Nation's Service program.

Please submit your signed letter of recommendation on letterhead, if at all possible, and note clearly how long and in what capacity you know the applicant and provide the committee with your name, title, affiliation, email and phone contact information. Letters can be sent either via email to the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative at [sinsi@princeton.edu](mailto:sinsi@princeton.edu), mailed directly to the Initiative c/o Barbara Bodine, 424 Robertson Hall, Princeton University 08544, or via the applicant (please ensure the letter is in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal). Letters are due no later than November 1, 2011.

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