

International Seminar on Decolonization in the 20th Century
July 5-August 1, 2009
Washington, D.C., USA

Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

Guidelines for Submitting Letters of Recommendation

Applicants should arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent *directly* to the address below to *arrive* by the application deadline for the 2009 seminar, November 3, 2008.

National History Center Attn: Decolonization Seminar AHA, 400 A Street SE, Washington, DC 20003-3889, USA Fax 202-544-8307 (marked Attn: NHC Decolonization Seminar) The letters of recommendation may also be sent by e-mail to: decol09apply@nationalhistorycenter.org.

The applicants should request those writing the letters of recommendation to provide full contact information for themselves (mailing address, telephone and fax numbers where they can be reached, and an e-mail address, if available). Applicants should give the referees a copy of these guidelines (or give them the URL of the relevant National History Center Web page) to ensure that the following points are dealt with in the letters:

- . • Describe how the writer of the letter of recommendation knows the applicant, and for how long.
- . • Address the question of fluency in English. As all the academic activities of the seminar will be conducted in English, the participants must be able to express themselves orally and in writing in fluent English. Moreover, these seminars are unique in that they are both academic seminars *and* writers' workshops, one of the goals of the seminar being the refinement of a draft article or draft book chapter into a publishable version. Referees should, therefore, especially indicate the applicant's qualifications in this regard.
- . • The letters should also address the applicant's ability to work well with diverse colleagues, offer and receive constructive criticism, and live relatively independently in Washington, D.C. for the duration of the seminar (in the austere but reasonably comfortable accommodation that the Center will arrange).
- . • The letters should include a *brief* discussion of how the applicant's proposed project is related to the analyses of decolonization and how it may contribute to the field.
- . • Needless to say, the letters should discuss the intellectual qualifications that will enable the applicant to contribute to the seminar and to benefit from participation.