



INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE

สถาบันการศึกษาการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืนนานาชาติ

**Directions for Letter of Reference  
Culture, Ecology and Community Program (CEC)**

Dear Colleague:

You have been asked to write a letter of reference for a student applying to the CEC program at the International Sustainable Studies Institute in Thailand. This is an experiential, cross-cultural study abroad program which focuses on the links between culture, ecology, and sustainability through the study of specific places and their human communities and ecosystems.

The CEC program is a demanding course. The academic coursework is equivalent to an upper division undergraduate course, with the added challenge of doing this while living cross-culturally and often traveling in remote areas. Students are required to do experiential fieldwork while writing about and analyzing the specific topic under consideration. This program requires students to be active and engaged learners, independent, well organized, mature and good at working together in teams.

Please take a moment to look at our website ([www.isdsi.org](http://www.isdsi.org)) and write a letter giving us your candid assessment as to how you think this student will do on this sort of program. Please let us know your assessment of this student's strengths and weaknesses. We would especially appreciate knowing how this student works with others, deals with stressful and/or ambiguous situations, and their academic qualifications. Would you want this student on a program you are leading in a developing country? Any other relevant information that you think important would be appreciated.

Please email the letter to [admissions@isdsi.org](mailto:admissions@isdsi.org).

Thank you for your assistance in this evaluation. I also write a lot of letters of recommendation and I know it takes time so I appreciate and value your input. Letters of recommendation are time consuming but very important, so thanks. If you want to email me directly, you can reach me at [mritchie@isdsi.org](mailto:mritchie@isdsi.org).

Sincerely,

Mark A. Ritchie, Ph.D.

Executive Director

International Sustainable Development Studies Institute