



INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE

สถาบันการศึกษาการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืนนานาชาติ

Dear Colleague:

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

ISDSI Expedition Field Courses are demanding. The academic coursework is equivalent to an upper division undergraduate course, with the added challenge of doing this while living cross-culturally and traveling in remote areas —villages, islands, rivers and mountains, traveling by foot, sea kayak or canoe. 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), 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 were leading in a developing country? Any other relevant information that you think important would be appreciated.

Please write the letter on your institution's letterhead, place it in an envelope, sign across the seal, and return it to the student who has requested the reference. If you would prefer to send it to us directly, please email the letter to 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, and 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 email me at mritchie@isdsi.org.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Ritchie, Ph.D.
Executive Director
International Sustainable Development Studies Institute