# Enclosure to the application for Swedish Institute Scholarships for Global Professionals for master level studies in Sweden starting the academic year 2025/2026.

## LETTER OF REFERENCE FORM (Instructions)

The referee is expected to state an opinion of the applicant from a professional perspective, on behalf of the referred organisation, and will thereby provide an important supplement to the letter of motivation and the curriculum vitae for your scholarship application.

To be eligible for [SI Scholarships for Global Professionals (SISGP)](https://si.se/en/apply/scholarships/swedish-institute-scholarships-for-global-professionals/), you must provide two different letters of reference. At least one letter of reference must be based on your work experience. The second letter of reference can be based on your work as well but can also be an academic reference based on your studies at university. However, it will be a merit if the second letter of reference is based on your involvement in networks or civil society organisations outside of your regular work.

### **Who can fill out the letter of reference?**

The referee should be someone who knows you in a professional rather than private manner. It does not have to be your direct manager. For instance, it can be the HR manager, or the head of the organisation, if the person can comment on your work on behalf of your employer.

If you work in a family business, if you are the owner of a business, or if you do freelance work, we can accept a signature from a client or a staff who works at your company who is **not** your family member. Clients should be companies/organisations (i.e. not private individuals) and are only allowed to certify the working hours that you have worked for them. The stamp should be the official stamp of the company/organisation.

If you do freelance work, you may also ask an employee at the professional association or agency where you are registered as a freelancer or receive assignments from to be your referee and to sign and stamp the letter of reference.

Examples of who cannot be used as a referee are:

* Co-workers
* Family members/relatives/partners/friends
* Individuals who demand compensation (money, goods, favours, services or other means) from you to give you a statement of reference

### **Requirement**

The letter of reference must be completed in English or alternatively translated by a notary public with the notary’s official stamp. The original letter of reference or the English translation should not exceed two pages (excluding the instruction page). **Any additional page(s) will be disregarded.** To be valid, the letter must be completed, dated, signed by the referee, and stamped by the referred company/organisation/university at which you worked or studied and which the referee represents. The stamp can be in any language as long as it is the official stamp of the referring organisation.

If your referee has changed job and is unable to represent your former or current employer, we recommend that you find another referee who still works at the company/organisation and is able to comment on your work performance.

If your employer does not have any stamp, we recommend that you provide a letter of reference based on your experience at another organisation. If you are not able to get a traditional stamp for your reference letter you could explore the possibility to sign the document with a digital signature or stamp. However, please note that a traditional stamp is preferred.

If it is the only work experience you have, we may accept an official stamp of a notary office. However, your referee still needs to fill in the template and sign it **on behalf of your employer**. The notary public needs to certify in English that the referee is authorised to represent the referred organisation and to write the letter of reference for you.

### **Submission**

You must merge the two letters of reference into one PDF document before submission. Do not include the instruction in the file. Please present the letter based on your work experience first. If both of your letters are based on your work, please sort them in reverse chronological order. If any letter is not written in English by your referee, you should present the translation from the notary office directly after the original letter in the same PDF document. **Kindly note that when the letter of reference stretches to two pages, the referee’s signature and the official stamp of the referring organisation or notary office are required at the bottom of both pages.**

### **Authenticity**

SI will carry out random checks on the applications and applicants to scrutinise any false or misleading information, including fabricated documentation. Should any false information be found, the applicant will be automatically disqualified and barred from applying for any SI scholarship programme in the future. Any false information discovered during the scholarship period will cause a termination of the scholarship. The scholarship holder will then have to refund the full scholarship amount to SI.

### **Do you have any questions?**

Please read the instruction above thoroughly. SI cannot make any exceptions. If you have more questions, please make sure to read through the [information about SISGP](https://si.se/en/apply/scholarships/swedish-institute-scholarships-for-global-professionals/) as well as the [FAQ](https://si.se/en/apply/faq-scholarships-on-masters-level/).

Enclosure to the application for Swedish Institute Scholarships for Global Professionals for master’s level studies in Sweden starting in the academic year 2025/2026

*The form must be completed in English. Additional pages will not be considered. Referees must sign and stamp the forms with the official organisation stamp, then convert them to PDF format.*

**LETTER OF REFERENCE FORM (Two pages maximum including this page)**

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| FIRST NAME(S) of applicant (as written in the passport) | TIJJANI |
| SURNAME(S) of applicant (as written in the passport) | IBRAHIM |
| DATE OF BIRTH of applicant (YYYY-MM-DD) |  |
| CITIZENSHIP of applicant | NIGERIA |

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| --- | --- |
| FULL NAME of referee | KABIRU SANNI |
| ORGANISATION/UNIVERSITY that the referee represents and the applicant works/worked or studies/studied at | SMARTCODE TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED |
| TITLE/POSITION of referee at the referring organisation/university | OPERATIONS MANAGER |
| E-MAIL ADDRESS of referee (preferably work e-mail) | kabiru.sani@smartcodetechnologies.com |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER of referee (with country code) | 2347068310803 |

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| --- | --- |
| What is the letter of reference based on: | Studies |
| In what capacity do you know the applicant | I had the privilege of supervising Ibrahim Tijjani in my capacity as Operations Manager at Smartcode Technologies. During this time, I closely worked with Him and observed His strong work ethic, dedication, and professional growth. |
| How long has the applicant been working/studying with you at your organisation/university? Please specify number of hours. | 3300 hrs |

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| --- |
| In your view, how would an SI scholarship for master’s studies in Sweden enhance the applicant's capacity for professional and academic growth?  The Swedish Institute (SI) Scholarship would provide Tijjani Ibrahim with access to Sweden’s world-class education, cutting-edge research, and innovation-driven ecosystem, a perfect environment to enhance His expertise in agricultural technology, digital transformation, and sustainable development. Through exposure to Sweden’s advanced smart farming solutions, IoT in agriculture, and data-driven farming techniques, I believe this opportunity would significantly expand His professional and academic capabilities.  Additionally, the program’s emphasis on leadership, sustainability, and global networking will equip Tijjani Ibrahim with the skills necessary to bridge the gap between technology and sustainable farming practices. Upon completion, I am confident that He will apply the knowledge gained to develop scalable digital solutions that empower farmers, increase productivity, and promote sustainable agriculture, particularly in Nigeria. |
| Briefly comment on the applicant’s capacity to contribute to and/or drive social changes in his/her context.  Beyond technical skills, Tijjani Ibrahim is deeply committed to social transformation. He actively collaborate with stakeholders, including local farmers, and technology experts, to promote sustainable farming practices through digital solutions. His leadership and problem-solving abilities make Him well-positioned to drive change in food security and climate-resilient agriculture in Nigeria.  Through the Swedish Institute Scholarship, He will gain access to Sweden’s world-class education, sustainability-driven policies, and global network of change-makers. With this experience, I have no doubt that He will return to His home country equipped with the knowledge and resources to scale his impact, advocate for inclusive agricultural policies, and empower marginalized farmers through innovative solutions. |
| Assess the applicant's leadership potential and their ability to contribute to societal development through qualities like networking, determination, analytical and critical thinking, and communication. Please a give a concrete example.  Having worked closely with Tijjani Ibrahim, I have witnessed His exceptional leadership, resilience, and ability to drive social change through technology and innovation in agriculture.  One of the most striking examples of His leadership potential was when He led a team of young developers and agronomists to build a web application that bridged the gap between farmers and potential buyers/consumers, this tech-driven agricultural solution enhances market access, transparency, food security, and market price information for smallholder farmers in Kaduna State, making it a game-changer for the agricultural sector. This initiative significantly reduced post-harvest losses and increased farmers income, directly impacting hundreds of rural farmers who previously lacked access to such vital information.  Ibrahim Tijjani has an outstanding ability to build networks. He successfully engaged clients, government agencies, NGOs, and local farming cooperatives, ensuring the solution was widely adopted and sustainable. His determination to bridge the digital divide in agriculture, despite limited funding and technical constraints, reflects his tenacity and problem-solving mindset.  Moreover, His analytical and critical thinking skills are evident in his data-driven decision-making approach. During His first year at Smartcode Technologies, He proposed the development of a drought-resistant cropping strategy using digital tools which is currently in view.  Beyond technical expertise, Ibrahim Tijjani is an exceptional communicator. His ability to translate complex technological concepts into simple, practical solutions has earned him the trust of local farmers and stakeholders alike. He has also had the opportunity to speak at some Technical schools in Kaduna, sharing insights on how digital innovation can transform food security. |
| Additional remarks (optional)  With the Swedish Institute (SI) Scholarship, I strongly believe that Ibrahim Tijjani will further refine his leadership abilities, expand his professional network, and gain global expertise. This will enable him to develop scalable solutions, influence policy reforms, and contribute to sustainable agriculture and economic development in his home country. |

I hereby declare that I wrote the letter of reference on behalf of the referring organisation. The information I provide is based on facts and my observations about the applicant’s qualities and performance.

***Date and place (city, country) Signature of referee Official stamp of the referred organisation***