

Academic Reference for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Theological Studies Program Admission to Fall 2023

Dear Academic Referee,

The conjoint Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Theological Studies program is intended to provide students with the analytical skills, methodological rigour and knowledge base that will enable them to carry out innovative research at the leading edges of their areas of specialization. In practical terms, the purpose of the program is to produce graduates who will be qualified to teach theological (and related) subjects in universities, liberal arts colleges, and theological schools. Secondary purposes include equipping persons for positions of leadership in ecclesiastical and related organizations, or for academically enhanced ministerial practice. The program distinguishes itself by its attention to methodological rigour within an interdisciplinary framework and by the unique ecumenical context provided by the TST.

As an academic referee you must have taught the applicant in the institution from which they received their master's degree. The GCTS does not provide a letter of reference form but asks that referees write a letter in which they comment candidly on the applicant's qualifications to pursue and complete graduate studies. Character references alone are not enough. Letters must address academic skills, be written on the letterhead of an academic institution, and be signed by the referee. References should address reading and writing ability, language skills, capacity for analysis and critical thinking, capacity to engage in a community of learning. References issued to students or photocopies will not be accepted.

To be certain your reference is matched to the applicant, please include the following in your letter of reference:

- the legal name of the applicant
- Indicate that you are providing an Academic Letter of Reference
- your name, position, and institution with which you are affiliated
- Sign and date your letter

Please send your reference by one of the following methods to be received the GCTS Office by the application deadline of **12 noon (EST), December 01, 2022**, for first round consideration or **12 noon (EST), February 16, 2023**, for second round consideration.

Mail your reference by regular postal mail directly to:

Applicant Reference - Confidential
Admissions Committee
c/o Graduate Centre for Theological Study
Toronto School of Theology
47 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto, ON M5S 2C3
Canada

OR

Email a scan of the original letter, as an attachment, sent **directly from your institutional email account** to GCTS.Office@utoronto.ca with the applicant's name and type of reference in the subject line e.g., "PhD Academic Reference – Jane Smith".

References issued to applicants or photocopies will not be accepted. Your letter is considered a confidential document and will not be shared with the applicant.

Thank you.