

The Aga Khan University  
**Confidential Reference Letter**

For admission to the Aga Khan University PhD programme in Health Sciences

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANT**

Complete this Section and forward this form to individuals who are well-acquainted with your previous academic work and professional experience. Out of the three, two letters of reference must be from individuals who are at **arm's length**\*. These letters should be emailed directly by your referees to [postgrad.query@aku.edu](mailto:postgrad.query@aku.edu) latest by **March 31, 2026**.

The letters should:

- i) be from an academic referee from an institute where the individual has trained recently.
- ii) be from a referee who is familiar with the work capacity of the candidate.
- iii) should have been written within the past one year.

**\*Arm's length:**

- **No direct supervision:** They haven't been your thesis advisor, supervisor, or mentor.
- **No collaboration:** They haven't co-authored papers or worked on joint research projects with you.
- **No personal ties:** They aren't family, close friends, or romantic partners.

<b>Last Name:</b>	<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Middle Name:</b>
<b>Application #:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**APPLICANT RELEASE OF INFORMATION (To be completed by the applicant)**

**Release of Information Authorisation:**

I hereby consent and authorize you to release and share all my information and my reference directly (without any reference or copy to me) with the Aga Khan University for admission into the PhD in Health Sciences Programme.

**To the Referee:**

The applicant whose name appears above is applying for admission to the Aga Khan University PhD in Health Sciences Programme. We would appreciate your candid appraisal of the candidate's academic performance, intellectual promise, and research capabilities as they relate to participation in a Ph.D. programme. Where possible, it would be helpful if you could provide examples or anecdotes to illustrate your comments. You may use extra pages if required.

Alternatively, if you have written a letter on behalf of this candidate that responds to the sorts of questions we ask below, it is acceptable simply to attach the letter to this form, sign the form and return it to us. Please fill this form with total confidentiality and send directly via email on [postgrad.query@aku.edu](mailto:postgrad.query@aku.edu) latest by **March 31, 2026**. Please include the applicant's name in the subject line of your email.

**1. In what capacity do you know the applicant? (Up to 100 words)**

**2. How long have you known the applicant? In what context, if any, have you known the applicant outside classroom or organization? (Up to 200 words)**

3. Please provide your recommendation of the candidate, explaining in detail (up to 500 words)

- Their work participation and performance
- Your assessment of their intellectual ability
- How well do they understand PhD level training?
- Any distinguishing characteristics and/or achievements
- Are there any special strengths or weaknesses?

How would you rate this applicant on the following scale? Please check the single most appropriate rating for each category.

	Outstanding	Excellent	Good	Fair
Research Potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic Performance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extracurricular activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Character and personal qualities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Position / Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

