

## Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard Foundation

### Notes for authors of reference letters for the CNV-Foundation

It is the aim of the Foundation to fund highly qualified young women in Germany, whose scientific careers are threatened by the difficulties of balancing science and family life even though they possess an above-average talent in the sciences. The Foundation does not provide the applicant's means of subsistence. It provides a grant of up to 400 Euro per month to help to relieve excellent female PhD students with children from their domestic burdens.

While we do realise that less talented women also face similar difficulties and could, with additional support, complete their doctoral thesis much easier, the Foundation is not in a position to help all young scientists in this regard. First and foremost the Foundation wishes to advance science. By assisting the best scientists to follow through with their career, we believe to be serving science in the best way. We therefore ask for a critical and candid evaluation along similar criteria as elite stipends (e.g.: Studienstiftung, EMBO, Schering Foundation, Boehringer-Ingelheim Fund).

We do not have a form for your reference, but the following questions may serve as a guide:

- How would you rank the applicant in comparison to other PhD students (including males) you have observed in your laboratory and institute? (among the best 5, 10, 12 %? the best?)
- How would you judge the originality, intelligence, and creativity of the applicant? Is she able to plan independently and implement a scientific project? To what degree is she dependant upon her surroundings and upon guidance?
- How would you estimate her motivation and commitment to pursue a scientific career?
- Will the support of the Foundation enable the applicant to spend more time for scientific research?

Please send your letter of recommendation no later than 31.12.2012 via email to [bewerbung@cnv-stiftung.de](mailto:bewerbung@cnv-stiftung.de). To process the applications more efficiently, we ask you to state the applicant's surname, your initials, and either »doc« in the email subject line.

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