

# Student Leaders Program

*A Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State*

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE APPLICANT:

Give this form to a relevant professional reference and ask him/her to fill out the form completely.

**Please make sure to provide your professional reference with the same first and last name and email address that you use to submit your application so that they can include the same information on their professional reference form.**

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM FOR THE PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE:

The Student Leaders program is an intensive 6-week exchange program to the United States for approximately 120 undergraduate and graduate students **ages 20-24 from the Middle East** and North Africa. The Student Leaders program has operated continually since 2003.

Students are divided among up to six U.S. academic institutions where they develop leadership skills and expand their understanding of civil society, as well as the democratic process and how both may be applied in their home communities. Participants have the opportunity to meet their American peers, engage in local community service activities, and observe and take part in the governmental process on the local, state, and federal levels.

The institutes include academic coursework, as well as study tours to various regions of the United States. Upon completion of the U.S.-based programs, host institutes work with participants to implement civic engagement programs in their home communities.

A follow-on training is generally held in the region approximately 6 months after the U.S. portion of the program.

### Instructions for Professional Reference:

The Student Leaders program features a unique kind of educational experience. This applicant will be involved in an exchange program with close contact with other leaders from the Middle East and North Africa region in a challenging learning environment that will require cross-cultural adjustment and an extended period of functioning as a member of a group. To succeed, the applicant must have a high degree of motivation and the ability to adjust to people of different social and cultural backgrounds. Please be very honest in your assessment of the applicant to help us to determine whether the applicant is an appropriate fit for this kind of program. Please indicate your estimate of the following characteristics as to how they pertain to the applicant by marking an "X" in the appropriate box. If you wish to add comments, please do so on another sheet of paper. **Your answers will remain confidential.**

## I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Applicant First Name:    | <b>Lilia</b>                 |
| Applicant Last Name:     | <b>Ben Yahia</b>             |
| Applicant Email Address: | <b>lbenyahia@taefund.org</b> |

## II. PERSONAL INFORMATION

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| First Name:          | <b>Lilia</b>                             |
| Last Name:           | <b>Ben Yahia</b>                         |
| Street Address:      | <b>07, rue Bach Hamba La Goulette</b>    |
| City:                | <b>Tunis</b>                             |
| Country:             | <b>Tunisie</b>                           |
| Telephone Number:    | <b>Mobile: 21184586/71191000</b>         |
| Email Address:       | <b>lbenyahia@taefund.org</b>             |
| Job Title:           | <b>TAEF Communication and PR Manager</b> |
| Place of Employment: | <b>Tunis Les Berges du Lac</b>           |

In what capacity have you know the applicant?

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|--|
| Rihem Tahari is a Fellow in our TAEF Fellows Program |
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How long have you known the applicant? From: **May 2019**\_to: **End of August 2019**\_  
Year Year

## III. APPLICANT RANKING

| Applicant Quality  | Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | Unknown |
|--|-----------|------|---------|------|---------|
| Consideration for and interest in others and their views |           | x    |         |      |         |
| Leadership potential                                     |           | x    |         |      |         |
| Ability to take direction cheerfully                     |           | x    |         |      |         |
| Takes Initiative   |           | x    |         |      |         |
| Sense of responsibility                                  |           | x    |         |      |         |
| Ability to adjust to and cope with new situations        | x         |      |         |      |         |
| Intellectual curiosity and imagination                   | x         |      |         |      |         |
| Ability to express self                                  |           | x    |         |      |         |

|   |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Participation in community and extracurricular activities | x |   |  |  |  |
| Ability to follow through with projects                   |   | x |  |  |  |

#### IV. SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

**Please print your responses to the following questions:**

What do you see as the strengths of this applicant? And weaknesses?

TAEF has selected Rihem Tahari out of 150 applications for the Fellows Program. This program consists of selecting the best students from different universities in Tunisia and to allow them to do their internships in one of our investee's companies (startups, or SMEs or MFIs). Rihem did a training in one of our startups(Dabchy). TAEF is an investment fund and finance the private sector in Tunisia. For more information, please click on this link:

<http://fellows.taefund.org/>

Besides being very good academically, she is also involved in community works and is open to other cultures. She needs to be proud of what she is doing.

How well will the applicant be able to work with others in the Student Leaders group to resolve problems?

She received positive feedback from the startup (Dabchy) she worked for. And she worked well in a team to resolve problems. She adapts well to new situations.

What challenges do you foresee the applicant might face in participating on this program?

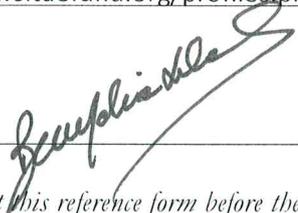
I really think that she will overcome any challenges that she might face as she adapts well and is a problem solver.

Please comment on the applicant's overall suitability for the program, including leadership and interpersonal skills.

*Rihem is someone who knows what she wants and is open to other ideas. She is creative and loves challenges. I really recommend her for the program.*

*For more details on her bio, please check it on our web site:*

[http://fellows.taefund.org/profiles.php?id\\_article=129](http://fellows.taefund.org/profiles.php?id_article=129)

Signature  Date 02/12/2019

*Please submit this reference form before the application deadline. Thank you!*