The Schwarzman Scholars program offers students a one-year master’s degree in China Studies, taught in Beijing. Students can also focus on one of three areas – public policy, business & economics, or international studies. The aim of the program is to build a network of professionals who know China well and can help to solve China and world issues.

The recommendation letters for candidates should address:

• How do you know the candidate, for how long, and in what capacity?
• Why is the candidate suitable for a one-year master’s program – ie. What sort of academic capability do they demonstrate, what research have they done, how do they compare to their peers?
• How will the master’s assist them in achieving their career goals?
• Has the candidate demonstrated an ability to solve problems in an interdisciplinary way?
• Why is China important to the candidate’s career aims?
• How will the candidate adapt to China, and do they have the cultural capacity to live, work, and study with people from different backgrounds?
• How does this person have the potential to be a leader or change agent in their field? Where have they had impact before? What kind of leadership style have they exhibited? How do they inspire others? Optimally, these examples should support the essay on leadership that the candidate has submitted in their application.
• What would this person be like in a professional setting?

You may not be able to address all of the questions above, and you may be able to add other insights.