

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

ADMISSIONS OFFICE, 75 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

RITCHIE Dennis MacAlistair  
(Print) Last Name First Middle

Applied Mathematics theory and use of computing equipment  
Subject Special Field

I. The Graduate School would appreciate a confidential statement from you concerning the applicant named above, telling us how well you think he will do as a graduate student carrying on advanced study in his field. If you can compare him with other men known to you who have attended or are now applying for admission to this School, we should welcome such a comparison.

Mr. Ritchie will do well in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. I have known few Harvard College undergraduates who were his intellectual equal, and practically none who were as mature and personable. As his freshman advisor, I saw directly his adult approach to education, and how he chose the hardest scientific courses for which he was properly prepared, filling out his program with courses from other areas in which he was interested. Since then, I have seen this continue, as exemplified by the graduate courses he has already taken, as soon as was possible -- perhaps too soon.

He has explained complicated subjects (e. g., the ice machine in the metallurgy department) both to me and to laymen with a facility that implies he will be an excellent teacher, if he so desires. At the same time, he has shown great intellectual curiosity about both scientific (e. g., my research) and other subjects, so he should do well in research.

In conclusion, I would say Dennis Ritchie also compares favorably with men I know who are presently in graduate school; he is in every way an outstanding candidate for admission.

II. Please rate the applicant in comparison with others of his age and position whom you have known:

	Upper 1 or 2%	Upper 10% but not upper 1 or 2%	Upper 25% but not upper 10%	Upper half but not upper 25%	Lower half	No Basis for Judgment
Native Intellectual Ability		X				
Breadth of General Knowledge	X					
Ability to Express Himself Orally	X					
Ability to Express Himself in Writing						X
Perseverance	X					
Emotional Maturity	X					
Imagination and Probable Creativity		X				
Potential as a Teacher	X					

Signature Robert A. Myers Date January 28, 1963  
 Position Teaching Fellow, App. Physics at Harvard College  
College or University  
 Address Gordon McKay Laboratory, 9 Oxford St., Cambridge, Mass.

RECEIVED

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*The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*

ADMISSIONS OFFICE, 75 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Ritchie Dennis MacAlistair  
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Applied Mathematics Theory and use of computing equipment  
Subject Special Field

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Dennis Ritchie was a student in my Freshman Seminar during his Freshman year and at that time I was quite impressed with his ability to grasp the essence of a problem and to devise effective methods of attacking it.

Since that time he has worked in the laboratory during two summers and has kept in touch by visits at other times. He is obviously intelligent, and well motivated towards a scientific career. He seems to have considerable initiative and, in my opinion, he is likely to prove to be of Ph.D. caliber.

II. *Please rate the applicant in comparison with others of his age and position whom you have known:*

	Upper 1 or 2%	Upper 10% but not upper 1 or 2%	Upper 25% but not upper 10%	Upper half but not upper 25%	Lower half	No Basis for Judgment
Native Intellectual Ability		✓				
Breadth of General Knowledge			✓			
Ability to Express Himself Orally		✓				
Ability to Express Himself in Writing			✓			
Perseverance		✓				
Emotional Maturity			✓			
Imagination and Probable Creativity		✓				
Potential as a Teacher						✓

Signature Bruce Chalmers

Date January 23, 1963

Position BRUCE CHALMERS

Gordon McKay Professor of Metallurgy

Address

Harvard University  
Cambridge, Mass

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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ADMISSIONS OFFICE, 75 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

060-2

RITCHIE

Dennis

MacAlister

(Print) Last Name

First

Middle

Applied Mathematics

Theory and use of computing equipment

Subject

Special Field

I. The Graduate School would appreciate a confidential statement from you concerning the applicant named above, telling us how well you think he will do as a graduate student carrying on advanced study in his field. It would be helpful for us to know how long and in what capacity you have known this student. If you can compare this student with others known to you who have attended or are now applying for admission to this School, we should welcome such a comparison.

Mr. Ritchie did a creditable job in AM 229 and ranked 5th out of 20. The ranking does not quite give an accurate picture of his ability as he was less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a percentage point below the 3rd and 4th ranked men.

I would rate Mr. Ritchie significantly better than Mr. Abbott and only slightly below Mr. Evay in overall ability. On the basis of his performance in AM 229, I would definitely recommend him for admission.

I. Please rate the applicant in comparison with others of his age and position whom you have known:  
I should rank this student in the top 25% of approximately 50 students I have taught in 2 years.

	Upper 1 or 2%	Upper 10% but not upper 1 or 2%	Upper 25% but not upper 10%	Upper half but not upper 25%	Lower half	No Basis for Judgment
Native Intellectual Ability			✓			
Breadth of General Knowledge			✓			
Ability to Express Himself Orally		✓				
Ability to Express Himself in Writing		✓				
Perseverance		✓				
Emotional Maturity		✓				
Imagination and Probable Creativity			✓			
Potential as a Teacher						✓

Signature Patrick C. Fisher Date February 24, 1963

Position Asst. Prof. of Applied Mathematics at Harvard DEAP

Address 15 Robinhood Road, Winchester, Mass. College or University

percent of students in the basic reference group for that test who received a lower scaled score than the one reported.

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Dennis M. Ritchie worked in the ~~Met~~ Metallurgical laboratory at Harvard for two summers. He impressed me very much as an intelligent, capable young man. He was continually interested in, and asked questions about projects which were going on in the lab.

I strongly recommend him to you as a candidate for Graduate Studies.

II. Please rate the applicant in comparison with others of his age and position whom you have known:

	Upper 1 or 2%	Upper 10% but not upper 1 or 2%	Upper 25% but not upper 10%	Upper half but not upper 25%	Lower half	No Basis for Judgment
Native Intellectual Ability	✓					
Breadth of General Knowledge						
Ability to Express Himself Orally	✓					
Ability to Express Himself in Writing						
Perseverance		✓				
Emotional Maturity						
Imagination and Probable Creativity	✓					
Potential as a Teacher						

Signature Kenneth A. Julian Date Jan. 28, 1963

Position \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ College or University

Address Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N.J.