



Tips for Applying to The Bronfman Fellowship

Thank you for applying to The Bronfman Fellowship! Keep in mind that you can see a pdf of the whole application [here](#). (However, the application must be completed and submitted [online](#).)

General Guidelines:

- Be yourself.
- Use your own voice.
- Help us understand how you think and act (not just your biography).
- Choose recommenders who know you well and can tell stories about you.
- For your essays, choose topics that don't overlap too much so we can learn as much about you as possible.
- For your video submission, focus on telling us something about yourself; don't worry so much about how you look or trying to impress us with your filmmaking skills.

Below are some words of advice about the application from past Fellows:

Essays:

- “Don't be afraid to use your essay to relate a sense of who you really are. I wrote about loving to sing, all the time, and my parents worried that the essay made me sound too ‘weird.’ In retrospect, I'm very glad I left it as it was!!!”
- “These things cannot be contrived. Take your time. Bring to mind the teachers, places, or events that have genuinely changed you, that have made you aware of the vastness of the universe, and the depth of your connection with it ... the experiences or relationships you would not trade for a pile of gold. Then once you have it, hold it in your mind, don't over think it, and just let it the words flow.”

Letters of recommendation:

- “Think of people who can speak to who you are in multiple arenas of your life, and make sure they understand how their letter serves your profile. Has this person seen you in an academic/professional/personal setting? All of the above? Have they seen your growth over high school?”

Other tips:

- “For the question about your relationship to Judaism, don't focus on your family - think more about your OWN religious practice and beliefs. You aren't bringing your family to Israel! You're bringing your own philosophy. Let those reading your application know precisely what you believe and why.”
- “Throughout the application, think about how you lead, not just what you ‘do.’ What is your role? How are you growing in your extra-curricular activities?”