Professor Chin's Policy on Letters of Recommendation

Note: RST professors all have individual policies on letters of recommendation! Check with other professors if my policy doesn't fit your situation.

I am happy to write letters of recommendation for students who meet the following criteria:

Letter of recommendation for study abroad: Students must have taken at least two courses from me, and received at least a B in both courses.

Letter of recommendation for fellowships: This depends very much on the fellowship you're interested in; contact me if you have questions.

Letter of recommendation for a job: Students must have taken at least two courses from me (one upper-division), and received at least a B+ in both courses. Students must also be able to explain their qualifications for the job, and explain why a letter of recommendation from me would be relevant to the skills they need to use on the job.

Letter of recommendation for a professional master's program: Students must have taken at least two courses from me (one upper division), and received at least an A in one course, and at least a B+ in the other. Students must also be able to explain their qualifications for the program, and must be able to explain why a letter of recommendation from me would be relevant to the program to which they're applying.

Letter of recommendation for an academic master's program, medical school or law school: Students must have taken at least two courses from me (one upper division), and received at least an A in one course, and at least an A- in the other. Students must also be able to describe clearly their interests and their qualifications (including their writing ability) for the programs to which they are applying, and must be able to explain why a letter of recommendation from me would be relevant to the program to which they're applying.

Letter of recommendation for a Ph.D. program: I almost never write recommendations for students wanting to go directly into a Ph.D. program from a B.A. program. Students who are exceptions to this rule will need to have demonstrated (a) extraordinary academic performance, (b) outstanding academic self-discipline, and (c) an ability to take direction and exceed expectations in every interaction I have had with them, in at least two courses, preferably more. Students must also be able to explain clearly to me their academic interests, reasons for wanting a Ph.D., and qualifications (including writing ability and foreign language training) for the programs to which they are applying.