

August 9, 2023

**POLYTECHNIQUE  
MONTRÉAL**



**Re: Letter of Reference for Altaf Allah Abbassi**

Dear Evaluation Committee of the PBEEE program,

I am Dr. Heng Li, an assistant professor in the Department of Génie Logiciel et Génie Informatique at Polytechnique Montréal. I would like to express my enthusiastic support for Ms. Altaf Allah Abbassi in her application to the *PBEEE* scholarship (*Le Programme de Bourses d'excellence pour étudiants étrangers*). I had the opportunity to know Ms. Abbassi when we collaborated on a research project and when she took one of my courses.

In fact, I had the pleasure of collaborating with Altaf, during her first semester at Polytechnique Montréal, Winter 2023, on a research project that aims to identify challenges encountered by researchers and practitioners in their deployment of Deep Reinforcement Learning models. Together with our team, we achieved successful outcomes from the project, resulting in a full paper accepted at the prestigious International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution (ICSME). I am particularly impressed by her passion for research and hard work which contributed to her early success in research, as evidenced by her paper being accepted at an A-classified conference, where she contributed as the second author.

Additionally, Altaf took the course LOG8371 - Ingénierie de la qualité en logiciel offered at Polytechnique Montréal in Winter 2023, which I had the privilege of coordinating. Throughout the course, Altaf displayed exceptional dedication and performed exceedingly well. She excelled with honors, earning an A\* grade (*exceptional*, the highest grade), and achieved an impressive overall GPA of 4.

Altaf's commitment to excellence and her ability to excel both in her studies and research are indicative of her strong potential as a promising researcher. I have no doubt that she will continue to thrive and make significant contributions to the academic community throughout her master's degree and beyond. Thus, I wholeheartedly recommend her for this prestigious PBEEE scholarship which will surely help her grow as a better researcher.

Thank you for your time reading this letter! I hope it provides a reference for Ms. Abbassi's candidacy for the scholarship. If you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [heng.li@polymtl.ca](mailto:heng.li@polymtl.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heng Li', with a stylized, cursive script.

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