

Département de
génie informatique
et génie logiciel

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Recommendation letter on behalf of Ms. Altaf Allah Abbassi.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am delighted to write this letter to express my strongest support for Ms. Altaf Allah Abbassi's application for the Merit Scholarship Program for Foreign Students (PBEEE).

I have had the privilege of supervising Ms. Altaf Abbassi's master's thesis at Polytechnique Montreal since January 2023. My initial encounter with Altaf was in 2022 when she applied for an internship position in my research group. Altaf had excellent academic results and a strong motivation for research and was therefore offered the position. Immediately after joining my research group, I noticed her exceptional motivation, her open-mindedness, and her ability to work in team and produce good results. Her internship project aimed to develop a novel reinforcement learning-based technique for testing conversational agents. She developed an approach that outperforms state of the art techniques, introducing many novel ideas. Impressed by her capabilities, I extended an invitation for her to continue her research in our master's program, an offer she graciously accepted.

During her first year in the master's program, Altaf achieved an impeccable GPA of 4/4 and co-authored a research paper that was accepted for publication in the prestigious International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution (ICSM). This paper delves into the challenges faced by practitioners when deploying deep reinforcement learning programs and offers actionable recommendations to overcome these challenges.

Altaf possesses a good combination of knowledge and attitude, and an excellent potential to become a top researcher in our field. She is very hard working and resilient. She knows the expectations of the research community in terms of rigor, professionalism, and productivity. Altaf also possesses exceptional leadership skills and a strong sense of initiative. She consistently seeks out opportunities to enhance her knowledge and skills in software engineering and machine learning, participating in research projects, workshops, and extracurricular activities such as engineering competitions.

Furthermore, Altaf exhibits exceptional teamwork and interpersonal skills. She consistently collaborates effectively with her peers, displaying

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strong communication skills, active listening, and a genuine willingness to learn from others. I'm confident that she will make significant research contributions during her master's studies and beyond, and it is with wholehearted enthusiasm that I endorse her application for the PBEEE scholarship. Undoubtedly, this scholarship will serve as a catalyst, propelling her ascent as a strong researcher.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Foutse Khomh, PhD, P. Eng.
Professor and Canada CIFAR AI Chair