

Reference letter for Karolina Nugumanova,  
MA student of the 2nd year  
in Sociology  
EUSPb

Dear Dr. de Luca and Dr. Aaron, I am writing this letter in support of Karolina Nugumanova's application for the doctoral position at the University of Warwick. I have known Karolina for almost two years. We met at the selection interview for the Masters program at the European University at St. Petersburg. I was a member of the Admissions Committee at the time, and Karolina gave an impressive presentation on her research project on gender representation in the media. Her presentation was positively evaluated and resulted in a funded Master's position at the Sociology Department. Since September 2020, she has been taking my course on Social inequalities, which I was then teaching at EUSP. She also completed my course on quantitative methods. She prepared carefully for each seminar and was one of the most active participants in class discussions.

I should note that Karolina has already had a great deal of professional experience before entering graduate school. During her undergraduate degree, Karolina worked for two years in one of the sociological company, where she conducted sociological and marketing research. She also interned at Ernst and Young. After the internship, she was invited to join the permanent staff, but she decided to continue her studies and immerse herself in academic research. Karolina has been interested in documentary and feature films since her first year of graduate school. At EUSP she performs one of the organizers of the film community and has often given public lectures and led discussions there. In documentary filmmaking, she received an excellent term paper in 2021, and in 2022 she continued to delve into the subject matter. I have to assure you that her work has developed over two years into a more ambitious project with clearer research strategies and methodologies. In March 2022, Karolina lectured on the topic of cinema outside the university at one of the cultural spaces of St. Petersburg.

I also know Karolina as an excellent social researcher who can do fieldwork really well. For example, from June 2021 to January 2022, she worked a principal investigator in an international project on media literacy and critical thinking among young people funded by a Warsaw NGO. Together with her EUSP colleagues, she developed the methodology, collected the data, analyzed it, and prepared the report. The results of this research are now being promoted in Europe.

Following the success of the study, Karolina was invited to examine gender inequality in Russian science. Also, Karolina and her colleagues from EUSP initiated a research on dreams of Russians after February 24, 2022. The research project is actively developing, and many Russian media publishers are extremely interested in its results. As the Dean of the Department of Sociology, I am also interested in the extracurricular activities of our students. I know that Karolina is socially and politically active. Together with sociologists from the Public Sociology Laboratory, she launched a video blog to discuss the current social and political situation in Russia.

I am convinced that all those skills make her an excellent candidate for this doctoral program, where she will be able to dive deeply into the atmosphere of scientific discussion where she would like to see herself in the coming years. Given her manifold qualities, I emphatically support Karolina Nugumanova's application. In case there are remaining questions about his credentials, please do not hesitate to contact me.