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Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Psychology
The Graduate Program in Cognition & Perception
6 Washington Place, Rm. 961
New York, NY 10003-6634
Prof. Michael S. Landy

Master-Mentorship Model Award
Department of Psychology
New York University

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this note to provide the mentorship plan for *Jiaming Xu* to support her application for the Master-Mentorship Model Award. Ms. Xu has been working in my lab since she arrived at NYU as an M.A. student a year ago and has already co-presented a poster at the Vision Sciences meeting this past May on the work she did during her first year. She has developed a research project that is her own for the current year and will develop this project into her Masters thesis, with the plan to complete the project by May.

I have been working closely with Ms. Xu all this time and continue to do so. She has a seat in my lab just outside my office. I have one scheduled one-hour meeting with her every week, but talk with her whenever she needs beyond that. Ms. Xu also participates fully in my weekly lab meeting along with my three Ph.D. students and postdoc. She is an equal participant in that lab meeting, taking a regular turn presenting either her own research or discussing a paper that is relevant to that research.

In our weekly meetings, we review concepts from the literature she has read, discuss the design of her experiment and how to develop a computational model of that work. She already has had substantial exposure to computational (e.g., Bayesian) modeling of perception during her first project, and has been mentored by me as well as by my Ph.D. student, Fangfang Hong, and my former postdoc and ongoing collaborator, Stephanie Badde. I suggest papers she should read to better understand the context in which her project is situated. I also am helping her develop a list of labs to apply to for Ph.D. training, applying for the upcoming December deadlines.

In other words, I try to be an all-encompassing academic mentor to Ms. Xu. She has developed substantial skills so far and I am confident of her success in the current research project. I'm also confident she will succeed in finding and gaining admission to a Ph.D. program to continue her studies after she successfully completes her M.A. degree at NYU.

Ms. Xu is certainly deserving of the Master-Mentorship Model Award. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Landy
Professor of Psychology and Neural Science
Coordinator, Program in Cognition and Perception