

Application Fee Waiver Request for
Sashini Nimthara Liyanage

Dear Admission Committee,

Sri Lanka is facing a severe economic crisis that has lowered our currency's value (1 USD = LKR 292.96). I work as a research assistant, earning LKR 60,000 (~\$200), which makes the \$105 application fee difficult to afford.

I support my family, especially since my father passed away from cancer. My mother, without a steady job, rents part of our home to cover expenses, but we still face financial challenges.

I was also selected for the **Graduate School Pathways Program** - Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral School 2024 (CMMRS). However, due to financial constraints, I couldn't physically participate in it. However, I have participated in all the online sessions and connected with other participants and faculty members through Slack.

I have attached the following evidence for your reference.

1. A letter from my employer
2. CMMRS invitation letter

Note: The CMMRS invitation came to my institutional email address: e17190@eng.pdn.ac.lk.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sashini Nimthara Liyanage



Multidisciplinary AI Research Center (MARC)
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Faculty of Engineering
Prof. E.O.E Pereira Mawatha, Peradeniya



Telephone: +94 77 714 6979

e-mail: marc@eng.pdn.ac.lk

01 Nov 2024

Dear University Admission Committee,

I am writing to confirm the financial situation of Ms. S.N. Liyanage (Sashini), who is currently employed full-time as a research assistant with us at Multidisciplinary AI research Center at the University of Peradeniya.

I have known Sashini for nearly 4 years as a lecturer during her undergraduate studies, as well as her research supervisor and mentor. Throughout this time, Sashini has proven to be a pleasant, well-mannered, and enthusiastic individual, approaching her academics with great diligence. Her passion and forte are to contribute to the field of electrical and computer engineering related area.

The prevailing economic crisis in the country has triggered hardships for a considerable portion of the community in Sri Lanka. Sashini is one of them, and she is currently facing considerable financial challenges. She manages to survive on a modest monthly income from MARC of just USD 200 (LKR 60,000) while struggling to cover her daily expenses. When it comes to applying to universities to secure a berth for graduate studies, I personally know that it is extremely difficult for her to pay the application fee. This may crush the dream of a brilliant young person.

If your institution can waive the application fee for her, you will give this immensely talented person an opportunity to contribute to the aforementioned field in the near future. Considering all the above facts, please be kind enough to provide her with a fee waiver when she applies to your university for graduate studies.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. H.M.V.R Herath

Acting Director/ MARC

Professor in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Faculty of Engineering
University of Peradeniya
Peradeniya.



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

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internet: <http://www.mpi-sws.org>

Saarbrücken, April 12, 2024

Dear Sashini Liyanage,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral Research School from Juli 28 until August 4, 2024 (<https://cmmrs.mpi-sws.org>). The school will take place on the premises of the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems in Saarbruecken, Germany.

The school will provide you with shared accommodation, full board, and will cover round-trip travel expenses between Colombo, Sri Lanka and Saarbruecken up to EUR 1500.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Druschel, Organizing Committee
Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral Research School 2024



Sashini Liyanage <e17190@eng.pdn.ac.lk>

CMMRS 2024 notification

1 message

CMMRS Team Mailbox <cmmrs@mpi-sws.org>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 7:13 PM

Reply-To: cmmrs@mpi-sws.org

To: e17190@eng.pdn.ac.lk

Dear Sashini,

Thank you for applying to the Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral School 2024. After a careful review of your application, we are very happy to inform you that you have been selected to attend the school this year. Congratulations!

To confirm that you will be attending the school, please fill out the following questionnaire by April 8, 2024. Please note that we expect your presence at the school in Saarbrücken for the entire program, from the evening of Sunday, July 28 to the morning of Sunday, August 4, 2024. This year we had more than 5 times as many applications as we can accommodate, so we wish to ensure selected attendees take full advantage of this opportunity. If you cannot confirm your full attendance by April 8, we may need to offer the slot to another applicant.

Link to questionnaire: <https://cloud.mpi-sws.org/index.php/apps/forms/s/XeYyFBGHBmrLZDj5AD82YXJk>

The school will provide a travel budget, meals, and shared accommodation from July 28 afternoon to August 4 morning. We will follow up next week with information on the travel budget available to you. Please refrain from making travel reservations until then.

Please plan to arrive in Saarbrücken no later than July 28 and leave Saarbrücken no earlier than August 4. Shared accommodation and meals will be provided at no cost to you, starting with dinner on Sunday, July 28 and ending with breakfast on Sunday, August 4. You are welcome to extend your trip at your own expense (flights arriving or departing a few days earlier or later can also be reimbursed – before booking, please confirm by sending an email to cmmrs@mpi-sws.org). Upon booking your travel, please make sure that you arrive in Saarbrücken between 2 pm and 10 pm, as a check-in after 10 pm will not be possible.

If you require an invitation letter to apply for a visa, please let us know.

We look forward to welcoming you in Saarbrücken!

The Organizing Team

Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral Research School 2024