Dear Admissions Committee,  
  
I feel immensely proud to be writing a recommendation letter in favor of Sarath Nambiar, who has been working as an analyst under my supervision at KPMG India for the last 2 years. I have guided Sarath not only as a manager at work but also as a mentor in his journey of learning data analysis and engineering. I can state with conviction that Sarath is the best employee/student that I have ever had in my career due to his innate curiosity to learn, ability to grasp things fast and great professionalism. His curiosity led us to working together on exploring multiple technologies such Apache druid, graph databases, elastic stack and I must say, he is exceptionally adept at database design among other things.

I have a work experience spanning over 15 years as a data specialist in multiple international firms such as KPMG, PwC, and Cognizant. His track of choice is Data Science and Analytics, I believe I will be able to provide insights regarding his skills in the domain. In the initial phases Sarath was new to the field and had barely any knowledge on analytics or SQL querying. He was very keen to learn and transitioned from being an intern learning SQL to my go to person for advanced querying and reports within just two months. He could learn any topic with very minimal guidance making him highly resourceful and adept at multiple tools and skillsets. He would always go above and beyond the work requirement and always finished ahead of deadlines.

Another trait that put him in the spotlight was his ability to spot areas of improvement and try to do it even if it wasn’t a requirement given to him. Once such incident was when he automated a mapping engine for determining scheme eligibility for a target audience of 20 million people, which decreased effort of 5 people and 4 hours (20 man hours) each to just 1 hour (95% time saved) using the python code he had written. He used advanced sequence matching libraries, all of which he had learnt himself and took the initiative to improve it. His leadership and ability to spot improvements is an important quality that will take him to great heights in his future.

He skilled up with an exceptional pace and learnt Spark, Pandas and regularly used various other python libraries. One of his other major achievements was when he replaced an entire data pipeline that used Logstash (ELK stack) and replaced it with Pyspark decreasing data ingestion time to Elasticsearch from 12 hours to 2 hours. This was once again an example of ownership he took on his own right from setting up spark environment on to coding it into fruition.

The passion he displayed towards learning data tools was unparalleled, he took upon personal part time projects on Elasticsearch stack which was later used at work and directly yielded a business impact. This brought the attention of the lead Partner of Digital Governance and the entire team received plaudits for the same. His presentation of the dashboards was excellent and the positive comment from the client is a testament of his not only his technical but also his soft skills.

I would highly recommend Sarath for graduate studies at your esteemed university, in fact I have personally invested time in looking at the curriculum of your program and I feel formal education of data engineering/analysis will improve his knowledge further and he will create a positive impact in the field. Given his ability in analytics he has all the skills to succeed in the program. To conclude, he would add new dimensions to the courses offered thanks to his explorative nature and make the classes a lot more engaging. He will definitely be a great addition to your cohort and will strive hard to achieve his goals.

Sourav Bhowmik,

Manager – KPMG India

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