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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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Dear Members of the Selection Panel,

I would like to recommend our undergraduate student Darina Mustakimova as an excellent candidate for the CERN Summer Student Programme. I have known Darina as her academic tutor since October 2022, when she enrolled in the undergraduate degree course in Physics with Astronomy at the University of Leeds, and can single her out as one of the strongest students I had the pleasure of tutoring since I joined Leeds in 2016.

Darina handled the challenges of moving to a foreign country and studying in a foreign language very well, was quick to adapt and has done very well in her first year. Throughout the academic year 2022/23, as a tutor, I had weekly sessions with students in which they present their working on physics problems and teamwork on the problems that they found challenging. This was done in person, in a group of 5 students. Darina attended each tutorial and always did her best. I can say with certainty that Darina performed best in her tutorial group of 6 students. She had mostly solved all problems prior to the tutorials, and was ready to share her work and help others solve them, showing good teamworking.

In the academic year 2023/24, due to her strong interest in theory, Darina switched to the Theoretical Physics degree. She sustained her academic achievements, with module marks consistently around 80%, in spite of the second year of study being considerably more difficult than the first. This is a testament not only to her intellectual abilities but also work habits and commitment required to sustain strong performance across all modules.

In the current, final year of study, Darina made good progress with her coursework thus far, and I am sure she will have done well in her exams in January, results of which will be available in a couple of weeks. In personal interactions, I could see that Darina is an ambitious student driven by scientific curiosity - she showed interest in summer studentship opportunities since her first year, and successfully completed an internship last summer.

I therefore strongly recommend Darina Mustakimova for the CERN Summer Student Programme and I am at your disposal for any further queries.

Sincerely yours,

Dr O. Panić

Dr Olja Panić