

**1. Recommender's Name:**

## Text Response

Aleksandra Slavkovic

## Statistic

Total Responses

## Value

1

**2. Recommender's Email Address:**

## Text Response

abs12@psu.edu

## Statistic

Total Responses

## Value

1

**3. Applicant's name for which you are providing a recommendation:**

## Text Response

Emily Sheen

## Statistic

Total Responses

## Value

1

**4. How long have you known the applicant and under what circumstances have you become familiar with the applicant's academic abilities?**

## Text Response

I met Emily in spring 2017, while trying to recruit her for our PhD program in Statistics. Our first interaction was on Skype, during the interview to gauge her interest in statistics and our program. She was direct and open, clear communicator with positive attitude, but what most impressed me is that she was ready with many good questions about the program, the University, both in terms of academics and life in general. Her maturity was clear, as it was her willingness to work even during the summer prior to joining the program to prepare better for the program. During the fall 2017 semester, she also took a class from me on Regression Analysis and Modeling, which is required for our first-year students. As she was not familiar with R, she had to pick it up at the same time along with many new concepts. She did face some challenges at the beginning, but with her determination, she found the right pace for herself and successfully began to learn both the underlying methodology and the required computing. She started to shine in the second part of the course that was more focused on actual data analysis and write-ups, and her group project on spatial regression modeling of movement of elk was one of the top in the class. I also believe that both her interests and her strengths are methodology and applications.

## Statistic

Total Responses

## Value

1

**5. Please assess the applicant's ability to contribute to the Data Science for the Public Good Fellowship Program.**

## Text Response

Emily has a background in economics and statistics, with a very strong interest in interplay of these sciences with social science and health issues and government policies. She is in the process of completing a rigorous first-year sequence in a doctoral degree in statistics, and eager to apply some of those newly acquired skills in a collaborative research setting that DSPG provides. Through her undergraduate research, she also gained experience in data collection, integration and cleaning and subsequently basic regression analyses of educational data. She has excellent communication skills, and I believe she will fit well within your collaborative environment, where she hopes she can further develop her technical and professional skills as a researcher and a collaborator. For an early statistics graduate student, given her background in economics and a strong interest in topics addressed in your program, she will be a great fit.

## Statistic

Total Responses

## Value

1

###### **6. How would you describe the applicant's motivation and initiative in pursuing his/her academic and career goals?**

###### **Text Response**

Emily is a highly motivated individual. She did not have a chance to visit us for our graduate requirement and even though she never visited PA, she was excited at a prospect of pursuing her PhD and in particular at having access to Social Data Analytics graduate-level opportunities at Penn State, that are associated with our Statistics PhD program. She has a very positive attitude and outlook, and works hard. Our redesigned first-year courses are very rigorous and challenging, with a good mix of theory, methodology and application topics. Since Emily's statistical theory background was limited in comparison to a number of other students, she was offered a choice to take an alternative path with our required courses, but she wanted to truly challenge herself and stuck with our regular hard sequence and through hard work and dedication, did well in her first-semester. She continues to challenge herself, and is already looking for summer research opportunities. She is an excellent communicator, with keen interest in social issues affecting governments and communities in the US, and more broadly, and she hopes to be able to address those issues through the use of statistics and development of new statistical methods.

###### **Statistic**

Total Responses

###### **Value**

1