



Kimberly Lyman <klyman@vt.edu>

DSPG 2018 - Request for Additional Information

Natalie Nelson <nnelson4@ncsu.edu>

Mon, Feb 19, 2018 at 4:02 PM

To: Lise Montefiore <lrmontef@ncsu.edu>

Cc: Kimberly Lyman <klyman@vt.edu>, Kristy Collins <kdivitto@bi.vt.edu>, Shernita Lee <shernita@bi.vt.edu>

Dear Kim,

I confirm that Lise successfully completed BAE 893 last semester and that the error on her transcript is currently being remedied. Also, Lise's transcripts are quite difficult to interpret since the French system doesn't use the A-F grading scheme and they grade much more severely than we do. I can assure you that she's academically gifted and a strong student!

Kind regards,
Natalie

On Mon, Feb 19, 2018 at 12:00 PM, Lise Montefiore <lrmontef@ncsu.edu> wrote:

Dear Ms. Lyman,

Please see attached for my resume and transcripts.

The French education system is notably different from that of the US. In particular, I completed a PCGE or "Preparatory Classes for the Grandes écoles", which is a system unique to France and has no equivalence here in the States. About 8% of the students in France are enrolled in this preparatory program, and acceptance into this program is based on academic success in the two last years of high school. The purpose of this structure is to prepare students for a national exam at the end of the two or three years. Based on their exam grades and ranks, students that succeed are given the opportunity to attend the engineering school of their choice. Here a link that describes this academic structure in more detail: <https://www.sieben.fr/2014/01/02/prepa/>

Moreover, the grade equivalence between the French and the US systems are unfortunately difficult to scale. I used one of the equivalence methods recommended by several universities (you can find details on this method in the attached "French_Us equivalence.pdf"). However, the equivalence is not totally accurate. The French embassy developed a service that aims to explain the grading in France (<http://www.usa.campusfrance.org/en/page/academic-life-0%20>). In their materials, they note that: "The French academic system uses a 0 to 20 grading system with 0 being the worst and 20 being the best. Theoretically, this means that a grade over 17 would be given to students who are exceptionally good, a grade of 11 would be given to an average student whose work was correct but not exceptional, and a grade below 6 would be given to students whose understanding of the subject is not sufficient. However, keep in mind that grades over 14 are rarely given. Grades over 12 generally mean the student is among the top 10 to 20 percent in the class – and a perfect "20" is extremely rare!"

Lastly, the Director of Graduate Programs in my department unintentionally did not assign me a grade for BAE 893 *DR Supervised Research* last semester. He has submitted a correction to the NCSU Graduate School, but the correction is not yet reflected in my NCSU transcripts yet. I have copied my advisor, who can confirm that this was a mistake. I received full credit for this course.

I hope this helps, and I apologize for the complications associated with interpreting a foreign grading system!

Thank you,
Lise

On Mon, Feb 19, 2018 at 9:34 AM, Kimberly Lyman <klyman@vt.edu> wrote:

Dear Lise Montefiore,

Thank you for your interest in DSPG 2018. We have received your application, and we are currently in the process of reviewing your information. To help us with our selection, please send us a resume/CV and your unofficial transcript at your earliest convenience. We are planning to reach out to the selected candidates for interviews in the next week, and the final decisions will be made in approximately 2-3 weeks.

We appreciate the time that you have invested in this application. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Kim

Kim Lyman
Administrative Services Coordinator
Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory (SDAL)
Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech
900 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203
klyman@vt.edu
571-858-3100

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Natalie Nelson, PhD
Assistant Professor
Biological and Agricultural Engineering
North Carolina State University
152 Weaver Laboratories
(919) 515-6741
<http://nelson.rbind.io/>

Mailing address:
Campus Box 7625
Raleigh, NC 27695-7625