

Block 7, Office 7-234
53 Kabanbay batyr Ave.
Astana 010000, Kazakhstan
+7 (7172) 70 65 38

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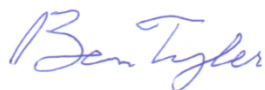
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Dana Zhumabekova for a Global UGRAD scholarship for study during the 2018-19 academic year. I first met Dana at the end of 2016, when she transferred into the Computer Science department, and have been her academic advisor since then. Dana is very inquisitive and intelligent, learns new things quickly, and is recognized by the department as one of our best second-year students. Though she has a somewhat quiet demeanor, she is always engaged with what she is doing, and has no problems in reaching out for help from others, if needed. I do believe that Dana would benefit from getting exposure to a more international academic environment, and would do well as a student in any U.S. undergraduate program. For these reasons, I support her application for a Global UGRAD scholarship.

I met Dana after her first semester of study in engineering, when she was wanting to change her major to Computer Science. Last spring, she took my Performance and Data Structures course, and even though she had a limited background in computing, she worked very hard, and was always willing to ask questions if something was unclear. She ended up near the top of the class. This fall, she has taken our core courses in databases and computer organization, as well as two intermediate math courses, along with a required Kazakh language course, and got a 4.0 GPA for the semester. Dana's instructors were very impressed with her work and overall work ethic, and have expressed interest in working with her in the future. It should be mentioned that our computing courses do not just focus on how to program and use technologies, but they require students to gain a deep technical understanding of the material, develop strong problem-solving skills, and they must think rigorously to succeed. Dana has shown to be very capable in this regard.

I believe Dana would benefit from both the exposure to another academic environment, as well as the experience of being abroad. I strongly recommend her for your support, and hope that you will carefully consider her application. Feel free to contact me at btyler@nu.edu.kz if you have any questions or wish to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely



Benjamin Tyler, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Acting Chair
Department of Computer Science
Nazarbayev University

P.S. Given that Nazarbayev University is a relatively new university, and is not well-known outside of Central Asia, I ask that you please read the information provided on the following page.

About Nazarbayev University

Nazarbayev University (NU) was launched in 2010 by special decree of the government of Kazakhstan to be the premier university of the country, and a regional leader in higher education. To ensure that the university is built upon the highest academic standards, NU has partnered with international institutions such as University College London, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Pittsburgh, Duke, Penn, and Cambridge. Admission is highly competitive, drawing from the best students in the country and region.

NU has been granted the unique status of an autonomous educational organization, which allows the university to develop policies, curriculum, and procedures outside those established by the Ministry of Education of Kazakhstan. NU is designed to act as a university that adopts best international practices, and to assist other local universities to consider some of these ideas in their operation. Because NU is at the vanguard of reforming education policy in Kazakhstan, we are exempt from Kazakhstan's equivalent to accreditation. The academic departments of NU, however, are currently taking the necessary steps towards accreditation by Western organizations (e.g., ABET). NU currently has Observer status in the International Association of Universities, and will be eligible for full membership in 2017, once we graduate our third cohort of students.

Further information about Nazarbayev University can be found at <http://nu.edu.kz/>