

July 26, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of reference for Faiz Mustansar, who has been working with me full-time as an undergraduate research assistant since Spring 2024. Throughout this time, Faiz has stood out to me as an exceptional young professional, consistently demonstrating qualities that make him an outstanding candidate for both scholarship and professional opportunities.

During his interview, Faiz immediately impressed me with his maturity, self-drive, and intelligence. His high marks in mathematics, business, and programming courses were evident on his transcript, but it was his practical experience and professional communication skills that set him apart. Faiz was already active in the Google Developer Student Club and had built an application, which he explained to me with clarity and depth. This combination of technical expertise, academic excellence, leadership, and hands-on experience helped him secure the position, outperforming even fifth-year candidates while in his first year.

In his role, Faiz has shown he can easily solve complex problems with minimal guidance, which is critical as I am not a technical expert in programming. He has taken the lead on building chatbots for multiple university courses from idea to product, including managing other research assistants, and end-users for testing. In this, Faiz has handled both front-end and back-end development and has demonstrated exceptional technical expertise and leadership. Similarly, his conduct has impressed my colleagues, including creating slides and presenting our project (on short notice!) to the Department Chair and Associate Dean of Academics to successfully acquire additional resources needed for its development. He proactively seeks resources and mentorship, looping myself and other team leads in as necessary with clear, efficient, and actionable reporting. His communication is on par with experienced professionals I have worked with.

Despite the demands of his full-time job, Faiz has successfully managed a full-time course-load and participates in competitive sports and volunteering within community service activities, demonstrating his balanced approach and interest in contributing to broader society. He has additionally pursued opportunities such as hackathons, where he won 2nd place, representing our university. This achievement, which he pursued independently, exemplifies his self-driven nature and ability to collaborate effectively with an interdisciplinary team.

IMPROVE LIFE.

In summary, while it has only been a short time that I've worked with Faiz, we meet daily and work together in a full-time capacity; i.e., I have gotten to know him more than I would the average student. In my 14 years as an educator and professional consultant, I can say that Faiz Mustansar is uniquely intelligent and a strong leader already, and whose potential amazes and intrigues me. I am confident he will bring value to any team or project he is part of, and I look forward to seeing the impact he will undoubtedly have on this world.

Thank you for considering Faiz for your opportunity – he is special. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole McCallum".

Nicole McCallum
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