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Data Science Hiring Team Manager  
Pinterest, Inc.  
San Francisco, CA

Dear Data Science Hiring Team Manager,

I am a first-year PhD student in Statistics at Rice University. Given the huge amount of data that we generate every second, I find data science extremely interesting and would like to see how we can use it to tackle problems in the real world. This was one of the reasons why I chose Rice to do my PhD – it is just next to the Texas Medical Center, and biomedical data is typically complex in both size and structure. This means I will have plenty of opportunities to take part in challenging yet meaningful projects during my PhD. As someone who possesses a hunger for knowledge, I am looking for a challenging summer experience in data science. Pinterest is a dynamic, fast-growing company in the social media business. Founded in 2010, the company has grown to 300 million active users. I am sure that there are a lot for me to learn at Pinterest, and this is why your data science summer internship is so appealing to me.

I believe I possess the knowledge and technical skills that are relevant to your opportunity. On the statistical side, I am well familiar with machine learning and data mining. I have done several projects on this topic, one of which was in the final year of my undergraduate studies at Imperial College London and was awarded a prize for being the best project. Recently, I completed a group project on machine learning with applications to asteroid data at Rice University and presented the poster at a school conference. I also have solid experience with time series analysis. Prior to starting my PhD, I had a journal paper on the prediction of stock prices in South East Asian countries. In the next semester, I will take PhD-level courses in statistical machine learning. They will serve as a perfect opportunity for me to consolidate my background before the summer internship. On the computational side, I have 7 years of experience with R programming. I used Matlab for my publication and I am currently learning Python on Coursera.

I am aware that strong communication skill plays a central role in any working environment. I had 2 years of teaching and research experience at the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. Currently, I am serving as a teaching assistant for the course “Introduction to Statistical Machine Learning” at Rice, and I am responsible for weekly office hours and recitations. I have also learned how to effectively collaborate with other researchers through taking part in publications and projects.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need more information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Hoai Nam Nguyen