



Pohang University of Science and Technology

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To whom it may concern

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to highly recommend HeeKyung Lee for her application to the Korean Foundation for Advanced Study's Overseas PhD Scholar Program. I have had the pleasure of knowing HeeKyung for the past two years, since she took my Applied Linear Algebra course in Autumn 2023.

This course is intentionally designed to challenge students with rigorous mathematical content, including advanced topics such as proving the Jordan Canonical Form using Lagrange polynomials. Many students dropped the class due to its difficulty, but HeeKyung not only stayed—she thrived. Her performance placed her among the top 10% of the class, and I recall giving her an 'A' for her outstanding grasp of abstract mathematical ideas.

What impressed me most about HeeKyung was her proactive mindset and openness. She frequently came to my office hours to discuss challenging concepts and ask thought-provoking questions. Unlike many students who are shy about asking for help, HeeKyung eagerly sought out intellectual exchange. She demonstrated a truly international and interdisciplinary attitude, which I believe is essential for success in a global academic environment.

During her undergraduate years, HeeKyung also spent over a year at UC Berkeley, where she engaged with professors and labs in the field of Artificial Intelligence, particularly in computer vision. She told me that the knowledge from my linear algebra class became especially useful during this time. I also had the chance to collaborate with her on a small educational AI project, where she designed prompt strategies for using ChatGPT to generate math problems for students. Her work was creative, effective, and showed her strong potential in the AI field.

I believe HeeKyung is precisely the kind of candidate that the KFAS Overseas PhD program was designed to support. Her ability to integrate knowledge, proactively build connections, and her vision for the future make her a promising leader for the next generation of AI development.

It is without reservation that I recommend her for this program.

Qirui Li