

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this recommendation letter in support of İpek Narin. İpek worked as a research assistant as part of the Koc University Summer Research Program (KUSRP) this past summer. This program offers an opportunity for high school students to be exposed to an academic research environment and gain research experience. As a professor of economics doing empirical work, my research team and I regularly work with high school students as part of this program. This year, research assistants mainly did data-related work for my large-scale field project on education.

The project İpek worked in aims to use the social environment and interactions students experience in the classroom, to cultivate positive attitudes and improve non-cognitive skills in childhood. Specifically, through a set of externally given coding curricula, we study the causal role of peer interactions and the nature of the classroom environment in the formation of individual beliefs, attitudes and non-cognitive skills. The project aims to provide inputs for how the educational environment can be designed early on, to build a culture that promotes gender equality, cultivates positive attitudes towards immigrants, and improves achievement outcomes.

Within this project, our summer research program consisted of research assistance work related to the data collected, and assistants were also expected to complete weekly research tasks such as writing literature reviews, preparing presentations of paper summaries, and learning about experimental project design, application, and analysis procedures. Based on the information provided by my team members who closely supervised her, I can state that İpek completed all given assignments diligently. Through this project, she has gained unique experience and perspective about research. İpek is very motivated to be a student in the mathematics/computer science applied to economics program, and I recommend her for admission.

Sincerely,

Seda Ertac

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Seda Ertac', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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