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"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." – Mahatma Gandhi

Company Recruitment Team

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MICROSOFT RESEARCH INDIA
BENGALURU, IN

Application for Microsoft Research Fellow Program 2018-2019

Dear MSRI Team

I am an **Information Technology graduate(2017)** from the **Indian Institute of Information Technology Vadodara**, one of the nationally important institutions alongside IITs/NITs in India. Currently, I am working at the **Robert Bosch Centre for Cyber Physical Systems, IISc Bangalore** (till Dec 2018). My job is to create a pipeline which takes live traffic videos and apply various ML/CV techniques on them to solve traffic problems by tracking vehicles and estimating their speed (For the Bengaluru Traffic Police Department). I had also done my final year research project in the field of statistics. Though I did my bachelors in IT, I used to have sessions and classes with CS pupils which attracted me more towards CS subjects than IT. Since I had to maintain a strict balance between my IT regime and my interest in CS, I used to work after the academic hours in exploring and studying core CS subjects liked by me. During my sixth semester, I came across a subject called Information Retrieval with a fantastic professor (currently at **Amazon**) in charge of it. This was the turning point because it was the first time when I came in contact with ML. I learned some basics and decided to dive deep into this field as it excited me very much. Since then there has been no looking back. **I am very passionate about applying ML to solve daily life problems.** I like to read research papers and try to implement them at relevant places. AI/ML have become a defacto term in my daily life. I am so gelled with this field that it drives me crazy. **I look out for youtube videos, read blogs and listen to pod-casts related to AI/ML.** Since I am from an economically backward family, I don't have enough money to take online courses. Hence, I rely on open source items. I have always felt the need to take these courses because they could have given me a proper direction. Also, I had tried a lot to find a mentor with whom I can learn and grow my ML skills. Then, I realized that my resume was not up-to the mark. Hence, **I took 6 months to tune my resume with relevant experience and skills and finally landed at IISc Bangalore.** The duration of the program is of 6 months. **The Microsoft Research Fellowship would be very useful to me as I am a beginner in ML who is filled with a lot of enthusiasm to use ML for the betterment of humanity.** Also, when I was going through this program's website, I was very much touched by the fact that it helps in providing a platform to improve one's profile and caliber for higher studies as well as for a better research career. Right at this moment, this is the perfect blend that I want as my long term plans are doing an MS with a Ph.D. in Computer Science with specialization in AI/ML from Stanford University. I am pretty sure that this program will help me in progressing in that direction. Working with the renowned team of Microsoft will also be a dream come true moment. I know it would be a tough competition to get through. But I know one thing, this opportunity is really a valuable one for me and I will try hard to get into this program. If selected, I would definitely try to accumulate knowledge from my mentors, peers and activities in all possible ways and make sure my end product remains best in its form. **My end goal will be to be a good researcher, if not the best, at the end of the program..** Hence, I am a worthy candidate for this program. Looking forward to a valuable learning experience with Microsoft Research Fellowship 2018-2019.

Sincerely,

Jishnu Jaykumar Padalunkal