

July 16, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very proud to write this recommendation letter for Ms. Khadejaa Al-Shehri. I have known Ms. Al-Shehri as her graduation project supervisor and as the head of Student Activities committee at the Computer and Information System College (CIS) at Umm Al-Qura University (UQU). These roles made me in close contact with Ms. Al-Shehri for three to five hours per week between lectures and weekly discussions over the whole academic year 2016 Fall and 2017 Spring and occasionally before that.

Out of all graduation projects of 2016F/2017S at the CS department, 28 projects in total, only two groups adopt the research track, whereas the other groups chose to develop various applications. Ms. Al-Shehri joined another four students to pursue their graduation project as a research-oriented project. They surveyed feature extraction and post-processing methods to implement an Arabic character optical recognition system (OCR). Without any prior knowledge in complex systems and advanced machine learning strategies, they showed an impressive learning curve to master such advanced topics within only 14 weeks. After that, they utilized what they have learned to implement their first segmentation-free OCR system from scratch. It was a challenging task and they managed to obtain some promising results using a new set of features. They gave two 20-minute presentations and a 150-page document for their survey and experimental results, which were all appraised by the examination committee, of four faculty members, for its outstanding level in comparison to the other projects. Their system will be taken for further testing in order to be submitted to an international conference.

In general, Khadejaa is highly intelligent with excellent analytical skills, who attends to the fine details of the problem to be solved. For instance, during the GP weekly discussion, each student must provide a thorough analysis of an assigned topic on either feature extractions or one of the OCR system stages based on an academic paper of her choice. Khadejaa always gave interesting discussions based not on just one paper but more than one paper with very critical questions. She has excellent communication skills, which were demonstrated on her written work and oral discussions.

Ms. Al-Shehri is a self-motivated student, who can set her own goals and milestones and achieved them successfully on time. She is one of the few who aims high and hits the mark and she always goes beyond the requirements in quality and quantity in any of her assignments.

Being independent and outspoken person was not on the expense of others when she worked within a team. She always sees the best in any bad situations; such optimistic personality motivates her team to exceed even their own expectations. Honesty and integrity are the hallmark of her character; she will not tolerate any of her ethical principles at any situation even when it is not convenient for her or at her benefit.

Beside her academic excellence, Khadejaa was a diplomatic and proactive volunteer and one who often make the biggest impact. These qualities allowed her to take many crucial roles at students' organizations whether it was within the department, across the university or even outside the university itself. For instance, beside her participation at almost all the department's activities, she led the CS students club (SEU) for several semesters and she also led "After the coffee" which is a university reading club.

Personally, I believe that Ms. Khadejaa is an excellent candidate and a valuable addition to any workplace, who is passionate about her work, honest with high integrity, well disciplined and eager to learn. If she chose to pursue her postgraduate studies, she would greatly benefit from the intellectual development provided by a sustained period of postgraduate program within a resourceful institution or organization.

If I can be of any further assistance, or provide you with further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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