This is to certify that

Zina Ibrahim

was nominated for a
King's Education Award
2022

April 2022

Zina's sessions never fail to surprise me in a good way. Zina's practical sessions start with MCQ questions aiming to sort out misconceptions. She would ask students to explain their choices and to discuss the underlying rationales or misconceptions. I thought students would be reluctant to discuss their answers, reckoning that they might give wrong answers, but Zina is well-prepared and is special in her ability to motivate students to share their thoughts. To me, classroom interaction is always very organic and not forced. (This is not a new form of pedagogy to me, as I experienced it in high school. But I am genuinely amazed by how well it works in a master's setting).

In some sessions, she would adopt a format of giving papers for students (in groups) to discuss and to present. I am excited to see this format in an applied MSc degree. In this way, she exposes students to a wide range of topics and allows us to understand the frontiers in research and the associated difficulties. After student presentations, she would guide students to assess the papers critically. Zina is bold to give her view on core issues in the field (Machine learning or health informatics) (but making it clear that it is opinionated) and encourage students to have a critical eye as well.

Coding practical sessions are well-prepared. Zina would listen to students' topics of interest and prepare extra content on-the-fly within the ten days of the module f2f timespan.

Zina is a resourceful teacher who encourages students' active participation in class and the development of critical thinking towards the issues at hand. I think her teaching sets the experience apart from the experiences of attending MOOCs or doing readings.