

Associate Chairs  
ECE Dept.  
University of Utah

Date: December 17, 2019

Subject: Emergency funding for Spring 2020 for Mr. Utkarsh Gupta

Dear Chairs,

I'm writing this letter to request emergency funding to cover the tuition bills for my PhD student Utkarsh Gupta for the Spring 2020 semester. Utkarsh is a PhD student in my research group. He joined our department in Fall 2014 as a PhD student after completing his B.S. For the first year of his study he was offered a teaching assistantship for one year after which he joined my research group and has been consistently working on his PhD research and paid as RA (and some partial TA for my courses ECE/CS 3700 and ECE/CS 5745/6745). He has exhausted his tuition benefits.

Utkarsh is making very good progress towards his PhD and is scheduled to defend his PhD thesis in the Spring 2020 semester, which will be his last semester at the U. His area of research is in verification, debug and rectification of arithmetic circuits. He has already published 7 papers – 5 conference papers, 1 book chapter and 1 IEEE TCAD journal paper. One of his publications received the **best paper award** at the *Intl. Workshop on Logic and Synthesis (IWLS)* in 2017, and another paper was a **best paper award candidate** at the *VLSI-SoC conf.* in 2018. In addition, he has 1 IEEE TCAD paper in review (based on his thesis work), and one more paper is being submitted this week (December 19<sup>th</sup>) to the European Test Symposium. He passed his PhD proposal in November 2018, and is currently working to finish his work, write his thesis and defend in the Spring semester.

I have a current NSF grant which was submitted last year and approved this year, but do not have funds to cover his tuition bill. As he is on track to completing his PhD in Spring, I request the committee to award him emergency funding to cover his tuition bill for the upcoming spring semester. I am committed to covering his RA stipend for the S'20 semester through my NSF grant.

Sincerely,



Priyank Kalla