

Sample LOR: PhD Applicant, Research Lab Mentor

Dr. Neha Bhatt, Principal Scientist

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To the Doctoral Admissions Committee,

I recommend Dev Sharma for doctoral study. Dev worked in my applied materials team at Meridian Research Labs for two years as a research engineer, and I mentored his work directly. Although his role sat in industry, the work was research-grade: hypothesis-driven, instrumented and written up to publication standard.

Dev owned the characterisation stage of our coatings project. When our adhesion results kept scattering beyond usable bounds, he traced the variance to a surface-preparation step everyone else had treated as fixed, designed a controlled comparison across preparation protocols and cut the scatter to a third of its original range. His internal report on the protocol became the team standard, and the work contributed to a jointly-authored conference paper on which he appears as second author.

He reads the literature like a doctoral student already: weekly, critically and with a running list of open questions. He taught himself the statistical tooling our analysis needed and then taught it to two junior colleagues.

Industry produces many careful engineers and few genuine researchers. Dev is the second kind. Compared with the graduate interns and early-career scientists I have mentored over a decade, he sits comfortably in the top tier for curiosity and rigour together. I recommend him for doctoral admission without hesitation and can be reached at the details above.

Sincerely,

Dr. Neha Bhatt

Principal Scientist, Meridian Research Labs, Bengaluru

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