

Sample LOR: PhD Applicant, Thesis Supervisor

Prof. S. Raghavan, Department of Computer Science

Eastern Institute of Technology, Chennai | s.raghavan@eit.example.ac.in | +91 98XXXXXX03 | 20 September 2026

To the Doctoral Admissions Committee,

I write to recommend Kavya Menon for your PhD program in Computer Science. I supervised Kavya's Master's thesis on efficient training methods for small language models over fourteen months and taught her graduate Machine Learning course, so my assessment rests on sustained, direct observation of her research.

Kavya's thesis began as a replication study and became original work through her own initiative. When the published baseline would not reproduce on our lab's constrained hardware, she designed a pruning schedule that recovered the reported accuracy at roughly half the memory budget. She ran the ablations without being asked, kept a laboratory notebook rigorous enough for a stranger to reproduce every result and presented the work as a poster at a national-level machine learning symposium. A short paper based on the thesis is under review at a peer-reviewed venue, with Kavya as first author.

What distinguishes her is behaviour under failure. A corrupted dataset cost her six weeks of results midway through the year. She rebuilt the pipeline with validation checks at every stage, recovered the timeline and treated the episode as a methods lesson rather than a setback.

Among the Master's students I have supervised in the past eight years, Kavya stands in the top two for research independence and in the top one for documentation discipline. She is ready for doctoral work now, not potentially. I recommend her in the strongest terms and welcome any inquiry at the details above.

Sincerely,

Prof. S. Raghavan

Department of Computer Science, Eastern Institute of Technology

All names, institutions and companies in this document are fictional. Sample for structure and style reference only. Do not copy verbatim into a live application. | collegedunia.com Study Abroad