

Dear Sir or Madam:

I take great pleasure in recommending Sophie X, one of my favorite students, for acceptance to your distinguished graduate program. As the academic and career advisor of Sophie, I became acquainted with her in 2004 when she was admitted into the major of financial engineering. I knew from her transcripts that she was an outstanding high school student, boasting distinctive performance in academic studies. Her strong interests in almost every subject allowed her to take part in a nation-wide intelligence competition organized by CCTV (China Central Television) and won the second prize.

Last year, I knew her better as tutoring her in dynamic optimization. Through interactions both inside and outside the classroom, her keen interests in the connection between finance and mathematics became clear to me. In one discussion on optimal control theory, I was surprised by her proficiency in performing rigorous mathematical analysis as an undergraduate student. She has an inherent ability to express her opinion both on paper and in speech. Her reports display creative thinking, but still retain the organization of a disciplined mind. As she does extensive reading outside of class, she is invariably in possession of facts and data that none of her classmates are aware of.

On the basis of her proven academic record and high proficiency in the English language, Sophie led many study groups in and out of classes. Always diligent and careful, she performed her duties to the best of her abilities. For example, during summer vacation, she organized a study group to investigate the personal finance products provided by commercial banks. She contacted many banks and arranged for members to visit and collect data and information. She also translated English materials into Chinese, which helped the group throughout their research work.

In addition to Sophie's strength in her major, I am often surprised by her strong leadership. She was the leader of Sports Department of Students' Union. Her major task was in charge of all the teams to participate in every sport event of our university for two successive years. On the other hand, she was the founder of the first international students' club--"SACIA" of YYY University, which chiefly exists to help foreign students to settle well in new environment. She is talented at designing, sketching the design for all of the advertisements of the activities in both organizations. In the recognition of her contributions, the university awarded her two Excellent Student Scholarships in 2005 and 2007. She was also honored the Outstanding Graduate Student in 2008.

In my experience with Sophie, I was impressed with not only her extraordinary intelligence but also her ambition and persistence. I am sure that she will be an outstanding student in any master's program that she may care to enroll in. So I would like to support her firmly in her quest recommendation into account when considering her application. I would appreciate your favorable consideration of her application.

Respectfully yours,

Steven Wang, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Business School

YYY University