

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

It is a pleasure to write this reference letter for Irfan Mir. Irfan took an independent study class with me in Spring 2016. Although he had not previously taken a class with me, he contacted me because one of his other professors suggested that, given his interests, I might be willing to supervise him. The same colleague assured me that Irfan had the maturity and initiative required to successfully complete an independent study, so I agreed to supervise the course.

Working with Irfan was very enjoyable. He had a clear sense of what he wanted to accomplish in the course and worked very hard to achieve it. The amount of reading he did was more than is required in many graduate-level courses. In addition to the books we had originally decided to cover in the course, he followed up on other readings I suggested and found yet more relevant work on his own. Each time we met, he had done an astonishing amount of work and came prepared to discuss what he had read and to follow up with further questions about the material. In my experience, it is rare for a student to be so self-directed.

Irfan also had a clear sense of the arguments he wanted to make in his papers for the course. We worked together to develop his skills in writing an argumentative philosophy essay, a genre of writing different than he was used to in the courses for his major. Here, too, I was impressed by Irfan's capacity for hard work and his willingness to accept a challenge.

I should also note that the content we covered during the semester was very challenging: we read works on artificial intelligence, philosophy of mind, ethics, neuroscience, and evolutionary biology. Irfan did an excellent job of bringing this diverse array of material together in his essays and of using it effectively to support his arguments.

In short, I believe that Irfan has the personality traits and the abilities necessary to succeed at pretty much anything he decides to do. He is hard-working, thoughtful, and insightful and he has a great deal of integrity and determination. Moreover, he is able to see connections among different areas of scholarship and to bring them together in creative and insightful ways. I believe that he will be well able to apply these skills in the workplace with the same success he achieved in our class together.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached most easily by email at rbluhm@msu.edu.

Sincerely,



Robyn Bluhm, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy/
Lyman Briggs College
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI, USA
48824



DEPARTMENT OF
PHILOSOPHY

Michigan State University
South Kedzie Hall
368 Farm Lane Room 503
East Lansing, MI
48824-1032
517/355-4490
FAX: 517/432-1320
e-mail: phil@msu.edu
web: www.philosophy.msu.edu