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Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM B)

India

To:

Team NBER Research Boot Camp

National Bureau of Economic Research

Cambridge, Massachusetts

United States of America

Dear Team,

I am a Doctoral Student in Finance and Accounting at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, India and writing this to express my interest in the Research Boot Camp 2020 at National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

I have joined the doctoral program just after my under-graduation at the age of twenty-one, being the youngest in the course to do so. During this one year, I have learnt concepts in Corporate Finance, Asset Pricing, Investments, Microeconomics, Financial and Advanced Econometrics, Probability and Statistics. I have also mastered various programming languages like STATA, R, SPSS and have done a certification course in Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC).

I would like to utilise this opportunity of learning from some of the esteemed professors and peer group at one of the best research ecosystems. This program is very much in parallel to my research interest -financial entrepreneurship, as I have a keen inclination towards Corporate Finance and Investments with emphasis on Venture Capital Markets. With the appropriate skill set acquired and interest in place, I believe that I am a good fit for the program.

Prof. Sankarshan Basu, one of the most prominent and well published Professors in India has recommended me for this program. Kindly, find this letter of recommendation required for the application process sent to Brett Maranjian at maranjian@nber.org

I hope my application stands favourable.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Medha Gorantla

MEDHA GORANTLA

Bangalore, India|+91 9515226350|linkedin.com/in/medhagorantla| medha.gorantla19@iimb.ac.in

EDUCATION

Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India Enrolled in May,2019
PhD in Finance and Accounting
Courses taken: Corporate Finance, Asset Pricing Theory, Investments, Microeconomics, Financial Econometrics, Advanced Econometrics, Probability, Statistics

Vasavi College of Engineering, Telangana, India Aug,2015 - May,2019
Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Communication Engineering

COMPUTER SKILLS

- **Programming Languages**: STATA, R, MATLAB, PYTHON, SPSS, JAVA, VERILOG, C, C++
- **Typing Software:** LATEX
- **Computer Skills:** Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Research Assistant**, IIM Bangalore July – Jan, 2020
- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL),** Electronics Division, Bangalore - Project Trainee June – July,2017
- **Terribly Tiny Tales (TTT),** India - Community Curator July – Sep, 2017

ACADEMIC PROJECTS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) certification Feb, 2020
- Effect of Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility on the performance of Indian Banks Jan,2020
- Effect of Diversity of Mutual Fund Managers on the firm Nov, 2019
- Debt Profile of Companies in the Indian Power Sector Aug,2019
- Cisco's CCNA certification July, 2018

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

ACUMEN College Technical Fest March,2019

- Led a group of 60 students to conduct a 3day event which received crowds upwards of 3000 people
- Communicated with various organizations and acquired sponsorships

English Language Teachers Association of India (ELTAI) May,2016

- Chief student organizer for the 11th International and 47th National ELTAI Conference, India

Founder – Dramatrix (Theatre Club) July,2015

School Pupil Leader – Rosary Convent High School, Hyderabad June,2012-March,2013

ESSAY

Twenty first century belongs to ‘disrupters’ who have changed the way of doing business. All of these are first generation entrepreneurs who had new ideas and have believed in them. Some of these ideas have been encouraged and supported by new generation of financers be it venture capitalists, angel investors etc. Many a survey in the United States, suggest that large percentage (more than two third) of the millionaires are of first generation and they are all driven by the idea of entrepreneurship. Over the world, be it start-ups or Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), provide more than fifty percent of the employment.

Scott Belsky, an American Entrepreneur and author, said “It is not about ideas, it is about making ideas happen.” Although, there are a few ideas which have been turned into successful business ventures, a few ideas have remained as ideas due to lack of financial resources. Though some of the countries have come up with a few initiatives, a lot can be done to transform these ideas into business models. From the perspective of investors, while there have been quite a few profitable businesses, many investors lost their money. Investment in such ventures, may yield high return but also carry huge risk. There must be a mechanism or a business model to see to it that the investors don’t burn their fingers too much! Silicon Valley has seen many successful stories, this must be replicated across the globe. I think, a lot of research needs to be done on this front.

Currently, I am pursuing Doctoral Program in Finance and Accounting in one of the best B-schools - Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM B). I had the good fortune of being the youngest to be selected into this esteemed program last year at the age of twenty-one. During this one year, I have been equipped with the knowledge from courses like Corporate Finance, Asset Pricing Theory, Investment, Microeconomics, Financial and Advanced Econometrics, Probability and Statistics. Apart from this, I have also mastered a few programming languages like STATA, R, SPSS which help in my research analysis. As a part of the Independent Study, I am working on ‘Corporate Social Responsibility of Indian Banks’. This knowledge system helped me in developing research acumen and improving my skill set. Having read literature quite extensively, I realise the importance of research in a business.

The Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp at National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) with its rich research ecosystem and a legacy of hundred years will help me to channelize my ideas into a research direction. The well published professors with their varied knowledge and experience, through their teachings in this course will give me an outlook not only in the field of entrepreneurial finance but also research in itself. As my major interest lies in Corporate Finance and Investments with emphasis on Venture Capital and the associated concepts, I believe that this program is tailor made for me and hopefully, pave the way in building my thesis question right at the end of first year.

Charles F. Kettering, an American inventor and former head of research at General Motors, has said “Research means that you don’t know, but are willing to find out.” Though my exposure might be limited, but I am eagerly willing to learn and make the best use of this opportunity, to achieve my research dream.

From: "Basu, Sankarshan" <sankarshan.basu@iimb.ac.in>
To: "maranjian@nber.org" <maranjian@nber.org>
Subject: Letter of recommendation for Ms. Medha Gorantla

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you to provide a letter of recommendation for Ms. Medha Gorantla who is applying for the 13th Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp (ERBC) that the NBER Entrepreneurship Working Group is hosting in Boston between July 13 and 17, 2020.

I have known Medha for the last year or so since she joined the Ph.D. programme at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. She came in to the programme right after completing her graduation in Electronics and Communications Engineering and in that sense she does not have any work experience before she joined the Ph.D. programme.

However, over the last year, Medha has demonstrated significant sincerity of purpose not just in the courses that she has had to take as a requirement for her Ph.D. (this includes a course on Financial Econometrics offered by me) but also independently in various research asects. Her interest seems to lie in areas which straddle finance and entrepreneurship and she has been making a lot of efforts to shore up her knowledge and understanding of core finance topics as well as on aspects related to entrepreneurship. To this end, she nt only does it formally through the coursework that she has to complete but on her own as well. In fact, it is quite refreshing to see a first year Ph.D. student without any prior work experience actually take so much of additional interest outside the mandated coursework

Medha ahs a good quantitative background and has over the last year got a fair amount of fiancé inputs.

The workshop will also be of great help to her Ph.D. and her career in general as it will open her to a large set of ideas and dimensions apart from allowing her to create strong networks.

I strongly recommend Medha for the workshop and hope she is offered the chance to attend the same.

Thanking you.

Regards,
Sankarshan
Sankarshan Basu
Professor, Finance and Accounting Area
Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
Bannerghatta Road
Bangalore – 560 076
India

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