# Cover Letter

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**Recommendation letter writer:**

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# Essay

I am a second-year PhD student in Strategy and Innovation at Georgia Institute of Technology. My first research project explores how time zone differences influence collaborative innovation. I was inspired by a rich body of scholarship on the role of distance in cooperative knowledge production and flows, which prompted my question of whether the effects of distance should be attributed to spatial separation, as measured in miles, or perhaps to differences in time zones that affect synchronous communication. I use USPTO patent data to compare inventors' moves made within or across time zones and measure the likelihood of future collaborations. My preliminary findings reveal that collaborations decline after a move, as expected, with the largest drop occurring when an individual relocates across time zones even when the move is relatively short in terms of miles[1]. I plan to extend this analysis by including a regression discontinuity design, exploring heterogeneity in these effects, and investigating the mechanisms that underlie these patterns. I am also considering switching my focus from collaboration to knowledge flows, with a keen interest in understanding how temporal distance and resource constraints shape the direction, quality, quantity, and speed of knowledge production. More broadly, I am interested in how resource constraints affect the direction, quality, quantity, and speed of new knowledge production, and whether under certain conditions these effects can be positive.

I am applying to the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp because I consider it an opportunity to fill the gaps in my knowledge of innovation research and complement my formal PhD training. While I have taken courses related to strategy and entrepreneurship, I have not had the chance to participate in a research seminar on innovation. By the summer of 2025, I will have completed my required coursework, making it a good time to further my learning and apply these insights to my research. In my first paper project, I drew from the works of Pierre Azoulay, Heidi Williams or Ben Jones. I believe that listening to, learning from, and consulting with others outside my regular circle will provide valuable insights and open my eyes to new perspectives and approaches to innovation research. In addition to the content, the boot camp's format is particularly appealing to me. I believe that in-person lectures and face-to-face interactions offer the best learning environment through real-time discussions and follow-up questions. Furthermore, coming from a small PhD program, I view the boot camp as a unique setting to connect with other PhD students and early-career researchers working on similar topics.

[1]Short is defined as less than the median value of all move distances

Dear Kevin, Ina, and Kyle,

I am pleased to recommend Katarzyna (Kasia) Swiech, a second-year student at Georgia Tech, for the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. As one of the faculty members who has worked with Kasia and advised her on her first-year paper, I have been able to watch her throughout the program and watch her develop into a curious and motivated scholar. Although she has excelled in courses related to strategy and entrepreneurship, Kasia has demonstrated a strong interest in deepening her understanding of the economics of innovation. As she concludes her coursework this semester and transitions into the ABD phase of her doctoral studies, she is exceptionally well-suited to make the most of the innovation boot camp.

As you may know, our PhD program in strategy and innovation at Georgia Tech is relatively small. As such, the opportunity for Kasia to engage with other like-minded students and faculty at the boot camp will be particularly valuable. She is smart, hard-working, and enthusiastic, and I am confident that she will be both an active participant and a valuable contributor to the program.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Cheers,

Alex

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