Dear Professors Bryan, Ganguli and Myers,

I am a second-year PhD student in Economics at New York University's Graduate School of Arts and Science. I am writing to apply for the 2026 NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. My research focuses on how policy environments shape incentives to innovate, adopt new technologies, and compete. I'm specifically interested in how information frictions and uncertainty interact with decisions regarding innovation.

By the time of the Boot Camp, I would have completed two years of graduate coursework with industrial organization and econometrics as my primary and secondary fields. Along with my graduate studies, I have been working as a research assistant for Professor Felix Montag on a project studying how globalization and trade integration affect market structure and product entry in the washers market in the European Union. Prior to graduate school, I was a pre-doctoral fellow for Professors Pinar Yildirim and Juan Camilo Castillo where I worked on projects involving digital platforms and urban economics.

My published research includes a co-authored paper in AER Papers & Proceedings which uses Uber data to compute the matching process between riders and drivers directly instead of using reduced form matching functions and finds increasing returns to scale which has implications for taxes and subsidies. I am also the co-author on a paper focused on race and income based segregation in travel patterns in Chicago.

My current research examines whether regulation can credibly coordinate innovation, specifically focusing on the European Union's proposed phase-out of internal combustion engine vehicles. A transition to electric vehicles requires coordination between firms investing in EV innovation and local governments and other parties building charging infrastructure. If commitment to an EV policy is weak, both parties may delay or reduce investment. In another project, I study how concentration of research activity and funding may distort optimal exploration in research on Alzheimer's disease.

As I transition from coursework to research, the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp would be an ideal opportunity to explore the literature on the economics of innovation and refine my research questions. I am excited by the opportunity to attend the Summer Institute Innovation Policy meeting where I would be exposed to the frontier of innovation research.

My recommendation letter will be provided by Professor Felix Montag (felix.montag@nyu.edu).

Thank you for considering my application. Please let me know if you require any further information.

Sincerely,
Shreya Mathur

SHREYA MATHUR

(+1) 475-243-4615 ⋄ s.mathur@nyu.edu

EDUCATION

New York University *August 2024 - Present*
PhD in Economics
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) *September 2017 - July 2019*
MSc Economics (2 Year Programme) Merit
Erasmus+ Exchange Scholar at Sciences Po, Paris *August 2016 - June 2017*
St. Xavier's College - Autonomous, Mumbai *June 2013 - June 2016*
Bachelor of Arts in Economics Overall GPA: 3.55/4

RESEARCH

- "Credible Policymaking and Coordinated Innovation: Electric Vehicles in the European Union", 2026 (Work in Progress)
- "Optimal Exploration in Alzheimer's Research", 2026 (Work in Progress)
- "A Tale of Many Cities: Measuring Travel Flows Across Race and Income"*, 2025, with Milena Almagro, Felipe Barbieri, Juan Camilo Castillo, Nathaniel Hickok and Tobias Salz
- "Matching and Network Effects in Ride Hailing", 2023, with Juan Camilo Castillo, *May 2023, AEA Papers and Proceedings*
- "Strategic Cross-Voting in US Primary Elections", 2023
  - Conferences: *AEA 2024 Poster Session*

* indicates first-author

AWARDS AND HONOURS

· Henry M. MacCracken Scholarship (2022) for graduate studies at NYU
· K.C. Mahindra Scholarship for Post-Graduate Studies Abroad (2017) of approx. 5000 GBP to support further studies at the LSE
· Erasmus+ Scholarship (2016) that covered tuition and living expenses at Sciences Po, Paris for 1 year of graduate studies (1 of 2 students recommended by St. Xavier's College - Autonomous, Mumbai)
· Golden Jubilee Scholarship (2015) for excellence in academics and extracurricular activities given to 1/700 graduating class students at St. Xavier's College - Autonomous, Mumbai

RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITIONS

2024–Present	Research Assistant, NYU for Felix Montag
2022-2024	Predoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania for Pinar Yildirim and Juan Camilo Castillo

PHD COURSEWORK

- Microeconomics I & II
- Macroeconomics I & II
- Econometrics I & II
- Math for Economists (PhD)

- Industrial Organization I (Theory)
- Industrial Organization I, II (Empirical)
- Applied Microeconometrics
- Network Econometrics
- Information Economics
- Experimental Economics

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Citizenship	Indian (currently in the US on a F-1 visa)
Languages	English, French, Hindi

My research focuses on how institutions and policies can accelerate or hinder the process of innovation. I am particularly interested in environmental and biomedical research markets where the scope of innovation is large.

In a current project, I examine when regulation can credibly coordinate innovation that requires complementary investments by multiple parties. I focus on the European Union's proposed 2035 phase-out of internal combustion engine vehicles. The proposal aimed to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles (EVs). However, it was met with significant pushback by auto manufacturers and many member nations requested exemptions, thus introducing uncertainty about the policy. A transition to electric vehicles requires two forms of innovation. Auto manufacturers must invest in dedicated EV production processes, while local governments, utilities and property owners must invest in charging infrastructure. These investments have large fixed costs and are undertaken only if the other parties also invest. This creates a coordination problem. Ideally, a ban would serve as a focal point for expectations and coordinate such investments. However, when commitment is weak, firms and governments may hesitate to make the investments necessary for coordinated industrial innovation. For the project, I am constructing a dataset that links legislative events to automaker investments and charging infrastructure expansion to study how regulation and innovation interact.

In a second project, I study the research paths followed in understanding the underlying mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease. Breakthroughs in medical innovation depend on research trajectories, and therefore, how innovative effort is allocated across competing scientific approaches. Scientific research on Alzheimer's has focused on the amyloid hypothesis for a significant period. The hypothesis states that cognitive decline is primarily due to the accumulation of amyloid-beta plaques. In spite of the presence of alternative research pathways, research activity, public funding and private R&D is highly concentrated on amyloid-targeting therapies. Therefore, I would like to investigate whether the concentration here is efficient coordination between investors and knowledge producers or whether funding incentives have distorted optimal exploration of alternative approaches.

In other future research, I also wish to explore how firms in the fishing industry update technology when faced with evolving global standards and trade competition as the industry becomes increasingly technologically intensive. My research interests lie at the intersection of industrial organisation and innovation and therefore, the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp would be the ideal opportunity to develop my interests in how policy can shape innovation when there is uncertainty. I would like to gain a better sense of where my projects lie within the economics of innovation literature and develop better empirical strategies. Previous iterations of the Boot Camp have also focused on the economics of science which is not commonly covered in curriculums and is a research interest of mine.

Felix Montag
Assistant Professor of Economics
NYU Stern School of Business
fm2731@stern.nyu.edu

February 11th, 2026

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Shreya Mathur

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to give my **strongest recommendation** for Shreya Mathur for the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. I am an Assistant Professor of Economics at NYU Stern, specializing in industrial organization and international trade. Shreya has worked with me as an RA since the summer of 2024, supporting several research projects at the intersection of IO, trade, and innovation, and I know her well.

What sets Shreya apart is her intellectual initiative. She does not simply execute tasks—she thinks deeply about the research questions and regularly proposes new directions. Our main ongoing project studies how regulatory harmonization and trade cost reductions through European integration change how multinationals introduce new products across markets, using sales data for washing machines across many years and countries. Shreya has independently suggested analyses to document the spread of new product features and proposed novel specifications for demand estimation. This kind of proactive engagement is rare in an RA and signals someone who is developing a genuine research instinct.

As her research statement reflects, Shreya is building a research agenda at the intersection of industrial organization and innovation. She has a strong foundation in IO through her coursework and research experience at NYU. The Boot Camp would be an ideal complement that connects her with the broader innovation research community and equips her with the tools and frameworks from the innovation literature to pursue the questions she cares most about and that we offer less at NYU.

I recommend Shreya without reservation. She has the curiosity, technical skill, and drive to become a researcher who bridges IO and innovation in important ways. **She would be both a valuable contributor to the Boot Camp and one of its greatest beneficiaries.**

Sincerely,

Felix Montag
Assistant Professor of Economics
NYU Stern School of Business