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Dear organizers,

I am writing this letter in support of Kate Maxwell's application for NBER Entrepreneurship Boot Camp.

Kate is currently a second year graduate student at Duke University. Her research interest is Development and Entrepreneurship. She has been working under the supervision of Duncan Thomas and me to investigate the life-cycle pattern of entrepreneurship using Indonesian Family Life Survey. Despite this is just the start of her research career, Kate has illustrated her strong commitment in working in the area of Entrepreneurship. I believe the knowledge she acquired from the Boot Camp will significantly improve her research ability.

In addition to her current research with IFLS, Kate has also had extensive experience of working with entrepreneur survey data. She worked as a research analyst for the Kauffman Foundation before she joined our department for Ph.D. study. Her practical work experience will likely help her to absorb the instruction at the Boot Camp fast and well.

I hope you could give Kate serious consideration for admission into the Boot Camp. Thank you.

Best,

Daniel (Yi) Xu

Associate Professor of Economics

Duke University

Kate Maxwell
82 Pocono Dr.
Durham, NC 27705

March 30, 2015

Thomas Hellmann
Saïd Business School
University of Oxford
Park End Street
Oxford OX1 1HP
UK

Dear Dr. Hellman,

I am writing to apply for the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. I am a second year Ph.D. student at Duke University in the economics department in the field of applied microeconomics.

I would very much like the opportunity to attend the Boot Camp in July. I believe it will be an excellent opportunity to gain both a broad and deep understanding of the entrepreneurship literature. This will allow me to better appreciate the field as it stands and how I might hope to contribute to it. Moreover, it represents a unique chance to discuss these works with leading researchers and peers.

I am well-situated take full advantage of this opportunity. In May, I will finish my course work, which has included topics in both applied and theoretical microeconomics. These courses built upon the first year core sequence, deepening my understanding of fundamental concepts. I have learned to be a more competent reader and reviewer of papers, a skill that will serve me well in the boot camp. My courses have covered a variety of areas, most devoted to topics in development economics and industrial organization.

This boot camp would also be particularly helpful as I am in the very early stages of articulating and executing a research agenda around development and entrepreneurship. As I transition away from coursework and towards more independent research it is especially important I have a well-developed base of knowledge. I have been developing a second year paper entitled “Transitions into Self-Employment: An Exploration of the Indonesian Family Life Survey” with Duncan Thomas and Daniel Xu as my advisors. While it is still a work in progress I am investigating the factors that contribute to transitions into and out of self-employment over a life cycle and how these choices and how they vary according to location, resources, education, sex, and other factors. I ultimately hope to better understand sorting into entrepreneurial activity in this context and how it may change over the life cycle. Though still quite preliminary, initial data exploration has shown promise.

In a more general sense, I believe there is a great deal of room to do productive work in the intersection of development and entrepreneurship. Combining my interests and experiences across these fields I hope to build a research portfolio which is of interest across both fields and provides insight into the differences and similarities of the practice of entrepreneurship across the developing world and developed world,.

However, the experience I will bring to bear goes beyond coursework at Duke. I spent several productive years working in Research and Policy at the Kauffman Foundation. While at Kauffman I able to participate in various research activities and gained exposure to a rich dialogue entrepreneurship, traveling to numerous workshops and conferences and interacting with a wide variety of thinkers. This preparation will aid me in benefiting fully from the instruction of the boot camp.

With this letter I have sent my curricula vitae and completed list of Ph.D. courses. You will receive a letter of references from Professor Daniel Xu separately. Please let me know if I can provide additional information. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kate Maxwell

Kate Maxwell

82 Pocono Dr., Durham, NC, 27705
kate.maxwell@duke.edu, 913.907.888

EDUCATION

Duke University — Durham, NC
Ph.D., Economics — Expected May 2018
Advisors: Duncan Thomas and Daniel Xu
M.A., Economics — July 2014

Saint Louis University — St. Louis, MO
Honors B.A., *cum laude*, Economics, French — May 2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development, Entrepreneurship, Firms

HONORS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship — 2013
Honors Program Outstanding Academic Thesis Award — 2010
Phi Beta Kappa — 2009
Saint Louis University Full Tuition Presidential Scholar — 2006

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Transitions into Self-Employment: An Exploration of the Indonesian Family Life Survey"

POLICY WRITING

"DIY producer society." *innovations* 7.3 (2012): 3-10 with Dane Stangler

"Founder Mobility: Analyzing Movements of Inc. 500 Founders Across Regions and Metropolitan Areas" Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Research Paper (September 1, 2012) with Samuel Arbesman

"Voices of Small Businesses: Discussion and Policy Implications" (October 1, 2012). Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Research Paper with Yasuyuki Motoyama

"Leveraging Regional Assets: Insights from High-Growth Companies in Kansas City" (July 2013) Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Research Paper with Yasuyuki Motoyama et al.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Founder Mobility: Analyzing Movements of Inc. 500 Founders Across Regions and Metropolitan Areas" American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 2013

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation — 2010-2013
Research Analyst

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Proficient in STATA, Python, French

Kate Maxwell
Completed Ph.D. Coursework (expected May 2015)

First Year Sequence:
Microeconomics I and II
Macroeconomic I and II
Econometrics I and II

Second Year:
Demand Estimation
Models of Entry
Local Public Finance
Development Economics I and II
Theoretical I.O.
Applied Micro Development Workshop (both semesters)
Learning
Human Capital
Labor Markets
Networks, Theory, and Developing
Psychology and Economics
Behavioral Economics