

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202410\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Crystal Tse  
Recommenders Institution: University of Illinois at Chicago

Recommenders Title: Associate Director  
Contact Name: Maha Sheikh

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver Choice:

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 12/22/2022 01:46 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000108460169

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known applicant:

Applicant ability as self-directed learner:

Time since last contact with applicant:

Applicant as productive member of group:

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant strengths:

Ability to complete rigorous grad program:

Responsibility/reliability:

Communication Skills - Oral:

Communication skills - written:

Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:

Ability to work independently:

Ability to handle stress:

Ability to think critically:

Ability to analyze/problem solve:

Ability to think creatively:

Openness to feedback:

Potential for leadership:

Ability to work in a team:

Personal/professional reflection:

#### Description Information

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Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 11/14/2022 08:26 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 12/22/2022 01:46 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



## CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

December 22, 2022

Dear Graduate Admissions Committee,

My name is Crystal Tse, and I was previously an Academic Skills Specialist and Instructor at the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), a student learning support center at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). Maha was a Peer Success Coach under my supervision at ACE from 2018-2021. I am delighted to recommend Maha Sheikh for the Master of Environmental Studies program at the Evergreen State College.

The Peer Success Coach program matches excellent senior UIC students with first year and transfer students. Coaches' duties include connecting students to resources across campus, helping students set academic and career goals, and coaching their students through the challenges of academic life. Maha went through a highly rigorous selection process where she submitted an intensive application and was interviewed in-person. After being chosen, she actively participated in a comprehensive training program throughout the academic term that equipped her further with the skills needed to help students not only adjust to, but thrive in college.

During her tenure as a Success Coach, Maha demonstrated leadership, professionalism, empathy, and resourcefulness that greatly benefited her large roster of students. Maha and I also worked closely together on several different projects, including designing and facilitating academic skills workshops for UIC students across campus on topics such as time management and effective studying and test-taking strategies. Maha also worked exceptionally well with the rest of the team – the Director of the center, professional staff, and the rest of the Success Coaches. Maha's duties required taking initiative, great attention to detail, and excellent interpersonal skills, and Maha's performance far exceeded the center's expectations.

During the time that I have known Maha, she has demonstrated a tremendous passion for environmental issues, studying and rectifying climate change, and spending time in the great outdoors. Her degree in both neuroscience and environmental science has also equipped her with both the knowledge and the skills to perform well in your program. Furthermore, she possesses a natural curiosity where she will be able to learn and gain experiences conducting research in the lab and in the field to move onto the next step in her career trajectory, including working in environmental policy or conducting hands-on research and field work.

During her undergraduate degree she also faced a great deal of personal and financial adversity from the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which she moved through with grace, resilience, and grit. Through her work at ACE she has also demonstrated a great of initiative and

resourcefulness, approaching requests and new tasks that she had never done before skillfully and competently. Maha's passion for the environment, excellent academic record, research and work experiences, contributions to the students on our campus, and her volunteering experiences make her a well-rounded candidate for this program. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about her application to your program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Crystal Tse', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Crystal Tse, PhD  
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Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence  
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