

ABC University

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25 January 2021

Admission Office
University of XYZ
123 College Address
City, Zip Code

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am delighted to provide a reference for Ms Hanako Yamada for admission to the MSt in Film Aesthetics at the University of XYZ. I am a professor of English literature at ABC University in Japan. Hanako took part in my Research Supervision Seminar when she was a third-year undergraduate student since she was interested in my research field, style and structure in modernist novels.

In the first and second years of our university, students are required to study various subjects, including general education electives, in addition to compulsory subjects such as literature, linguistics, another foreign language (she selected French and Latin) and philosophy. Hanako's results, on the whole, were excellent and in my English literature lectures, she was always a hard-working student and was very interested in the culture and history behind the literature. She often asked me to recommend books related to literary ideas, and I lent her books from my office when she was unable to find them in libraries or bookshops.

In my seminars, she endeavoured to understand the intellectual pursuits not only of my lectures but also other students' thoughts and interpretations of the books I had selected for the seminar, which comprised mainly literature by female authors such as Woolf or Austin. When assigned a theme, she would spend a great deal of time researching it from various resources and analyse the consequences to enable her to give a speech on it in the seminar. In conclusion, she accorded time to answering various questions and her attitude was always to listen to other people's opinion carefully, and not to consider how to win the argument. She demonstrated both sensitivity and detachment when discussing delicate matters such as discrimination against females or slaves. She was not only serious and excellent but also stimulated the seminar with her interesting points of view, making those points in a pleasant manner, which brightened the mood in the class.

She was always eloquent during discussions and yet would not get carried away with her speech and always sought a way to proceed with things productively. When at times it seemed

difficult to discuss a matter in the seminar due to the issue in question being too profound, she was subsequently able to consider it further by consulting other materials or doing research on the Internet, etc. She always tried to explain her views very clearly and concisely with supporting arguments, trying not to be too persuasive. Hanako valued a spirit of teamwork but at the same time, she wanted contemplation when necessary. I guided Hanako's graduation thesis on 'Waiting for Godot' because she was intrigued by Beckett's attitude to language. I was impressed with the written work she undertook in completing her thesis as I think she was perceptive enough to make her arguments clear and straight to the point.

Off-campus, Hanako was active in attending public seminars at other universities and sought to enrich her knowledge of the fields she was interested in; indeed, she often talked about this during our seminar break time. She worked as a volunteer Japanese teacher for graduate students from abroad, introduced by the city where she lived, and she encountered people with different values, which she told me broadened her horizons. Her practical English speaking skills also improved by undertaking this activity. Overall, she was a diligent and intelligent student of impeccable character, and I am sure she has developed her own ideas based on her experiences from her university days.

Hanako would like to have the opportunity to study at your university to help her into the film industry in the future and sincerely hopes to acquire knowledge and skills from the course. I think your environment would be beneficial for her study and provide her with good stimulation. If Hanako were to be accepted, she would contribute to the accumulation of research in the area of film aesthetics as a great asset to your university. I would therefore highly recommend Hanako Yamada.

If I can be of any further assistance or provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Ichiro Tanaka
Professor
Department of English Literature
ABC University