

University at Buffalo
State University of New York

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

January 27, 2016

Summer Internships Committee
Microsoft Research
Re: applicant Arundhati Rao

Dear Summer Internships Committee:

I am happy to provide a reference for Ms. Arundhati Rao. I have been her general academic advisor since her entry into our Master's program last August (2015). I have not had her in any course.

Ms. Rao dealt herself a hard hand last term, taking four of our department's six required "Core" courses in one gulp. I OK-ed this because of her excellent undergraduate grades, her having 2 years of work experience prior to coming here, and her special interests in Information Retrieval and Programming Languages which are offered only in Fall. As it happened she was squeezed for time which best explains her grades of B-,B-,B,B+, not terrible but a notch below our mark. She had originally wished a similar load this term including *both* Distributed Systems and Data-Intensive Computing but we've arrived at a more-selective menu.

She is both polite and forthcoming in conversation, completely fluent, and conveys strong engagement in her interests. She has much broader experience with software-system building tools than I typically see in first-year Master's students when I give a non-theoretical seminar. She is manifestly a very hard worker. Hence I recommend her more highly than her GPA might suggest. I will be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Kenneth W. Regan