

## Letter of Recommendation

To the Admissions Committee,

My name is Roman Ivanov, and I serve as the project administrator and lead developer of Checkstyle, a widely used static analysis tool adopted by developers and organizations globally. I am pleased to recommend Manish K Kandrakota for admission to your graduate program. I have worked closely with him through his extensive contributions to Checkstyle, and he stands out as one of the most capable and reliable student contributors our project has seen.

Manish began contributing by independently identifying issues and proposing well-structured solutions. He went on to complete over 100 merged pull requests, an exceptional level of productivity even compared to experienced open-source developers. His contributions included bug fixes, regression resolution, test improvements, refactoring legacy components, and adding enhancements aligned with our roadmap. Each task required navigating a large, mature codebase and adhering to rigorous technical standards.

Manish has demonstrated strong command of Java, JUnit testing, CI workflows, refactoring practices, and automated code quality enforcement. Many of the issues he worked on involved subtle design considerations and non-trivial edge cases. His ability to understand the internal architecture of Checkstyle, propose clear solutions, and incorporate feedback efficiently reflects maturity far beyond the typical undergraduate contributor.

His professionalism has been equally impressive. Our review process is intentionally strict; many pull requests undergo several iteration cycles. Manish handled this process with consistency, clarity, and patience. He takes ownership of assigned issues, communicates effectively, and delivers high-quality work without supervision. These traits—discipline, attention to detail, and the ability to learn quickly—are essential for success in demanding graduate programs.

Manish also shows strong engineering intuition. He quickly recognized recurring patterns in static analysis logic and contributed changes that improved the maintainability and reliability of the project. His work positively impacted a widely used, production-grade tool, which is a rare accomplishment for an undergraduate contributor.

Based on his technical depth, independence, and demonstrated ability to contribute meaningfully to complex software systems, I am confident that Manish will excel in a rigorous graduate program. He is well-prepared for both research-oriented MS pathways and industry-focused MEng programs. I recommend him without reservation.

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