

Aug. 19, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I can easily recommend Maria Kapinos for the Project Arizona

Maria is more than just a good journalist; she is an independent thinker, someone who goes above and beyond expectations, and someone who is easy to work with.

I met Maria during the summer of 2015 when she was in the master's program at Mohyla School of Journalism. I brought American students from my former university (Lee University) to Ukraine to collaborate with students from Mohyla. Maria volunteered to work with my students, and then quickly established herself as a leader within the group. While her "job" was that of a translator, she became a fixer, problem solver, translator and collaborator – often teaching my students. Her English was impeccable, but more than that, her enthusiasm and drive were inspiring.

After the students left, Maria helped me as a fixer and translator for a story I was working on for the Washington Post. Again, she distinguished herself as a complete professional, adept at working well above "student" proficiencies.

Since that month-long trip, Maria and I have stayed in contact, and I've been pleased to see that her hard work and passion have translated into professional success, landing her at the Kyiv Post where she works as a multimedia journalist. Her work is inspiring. She is successful professionally as a journalist, and also is successful with her hobby of novel writing, having written more than one full-length novel as well.

The bottom line is this: I would hire Maria if I could; she is the complete package. Thank you for considering accepting Maria into your program. If you do select her,

she will represent you well as a fellow for years to come. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to get in touch.

Best Regards,

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